Bengaluru Friday, October 24, 2025 Pages 14 Vol 78 No 293 ₹7

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DH

DECCAN HERALD

The Power of Good

India qualify for Women's WC semifinals

Pratika, Smriti set up commanding 53-run win over NZ

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Tejashwi will be CM face of I.N.D.I.A bloc

Cong mollifies RJD; VIP chief Sahani to be DyCM candidate

Tejashwi Yadav

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

The Congress on Thursday smoothed RJD's ruffled feathers and declared former Bihar deputy chief minister Tejashwi Yadav as the chief ministerial face of the Mahagatbandhan for the Bihar Assembly elections.

"Tejashwi Yadav will be the chief ministerial candidate of the Mahagatbandhan. If we are voted to power, VIP chief Mukesh Sahani will be the deputy chief minister," said senior Congress observer and former Rajasthan CM Ashok Gehlot.

BIHAR VOTES

The Congress high command had specifically despatched Gehlot to Patna to mollify a miffed Lalu Yadav and Tejashwi, who were upset over the Congress' constant reluctance in declaring Lalu's heir apparent as the CM face of the Opposition alliance.

"One more deputy CM from the Dalit/Muslim/EBC category, besides Mukesh Sahani, could be appointed," Tejashwi interrupted Gehlot and put the record straight on the possibility of two deputy CMs.

An ace politician that he is, Gehlot extended an olive branch to the RJD leader as the Mahagatbandhan had been in tatters for the last fortnight where neither a combined list of the alliance candidates was announced nor was there any sign of coordination among the allies.

Such was the animosity among them that out of 243 seats, the Mahagatbandhan candidates were fighting on 11 seats against each other, instead of fighting their main rival, the NDA.

▸ Tejashwi, Page 8

Campaign reboot for I.N.D.I.A?

The I.N.D.I.A bloc expects that the Congress shedding its reluctance to name Tejashwi Yadav as chief ministerial face and RJD overcoming its suspicion of VIP to accept Mukesh Sahani as a deputy chief minister to bring the alliance back on track in the campaign for Bihar polls.

Details on Page 9

Oil imports: PM to skip Malaysian trip, avoid meeting Trump

ANIRBAN BHAUMIK
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Donald Trump

Narendra Modi

With US President Donald Trump repeatedly claiming to have received an assurance from Prime Minister Narendra Modi that India would curtail oil imports from Russia, New Delhi has nixed the possibility of a meeting between the two leaders in Kuala Lumpur next week.

Modi has decided to not travel to the Malaysian capital for the ASEAN summit and instead attend it virtually, pouring cold water over speculations about a bilateral meeting with Trump on the sidelines of the summit of the Southeast Asian leaders from October 26 to 28.

The PM's decision to avoid travelling to Kuala Lumpur, according to sources in New Delhi, was based on an assessment of the political implications of his meeting with Trump ahead of the Bihar polls and the need to avoid risking a mismatch in the accounts of the discussion to be presented by the two sides.

▸ Modi-Trump, Page 8

Body blow to Reliance

Reliance Industries Ltd, India's biggest buyer of discounted Russian oil, plans to scale back imports of Russian oil after US sanctions on Moscow-linked firms Lukoil and Rosneft.

Details on Page 12

Metro tender a bad 'ad' for transparency?

Bidders say BMRCL could lose Rs 375 cr in 'tilted' tender

DH SPECIAL

NAVEEN MENEZES
BENGALURU, DHNS

8,755 BOARDS FOR ADS
BMRCL has identified boards for ads across its network
Silk Board and KIA Terminal 2,960
Challaghatta-Whitefield line 2,194
Madavara-Silk Institute 1,613
Bommasandra-RV Road 1,220
Kalena Agrahara-Tavarekere 768
This translates to about 3.69 lakh sq ft of advertising space

What was meant to be a Rs 65-crore advertising tender for the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) has run into a controversy, with bidders alleging that the technical scoring system is "tilted" to favour a single player. They believe Namma Metro would stand to lose over Rs 375 crore over the next 15 years, stating that the tender undermines both transparency and fair competition.

After a gap of seven years, BMRCL recently invited tenders to grant advertisement rights on select metro piers and portal. It identified a whopping 8,755 pillars for ads.

The tender has, however, raised several questions. One, the contract period stretches to 12 years and can be extended by three more years, making it unusually long. Second, BMRCL has bundled all corridors into a single package, which restricts competitive bidding. It has also included non-operational corridors like Blue line (ORR) and Pink line (Bannerghatta Road-Nagawara), which is designed to create monopoly and said to favour the private firm.

BMRCL's MD J Ravishankar was not available for comment.

▸ Metro, Page 8

Online content removal rules tightened

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Union Ministry of Electronics and IT has said that only senior officials can issue orders to social media companies to take down unlawful content.

As per the amended IT Rules, only top officials with the rank of joint secretary or above and police officials serving as DIG or above can issue orders to remove content. The new rules also stipulate that authorities have to intimate social media companies the reasons for issuing the order.

Details on Page 12

CM's son projects Satish Jarkiholi as political heir to his father

BENGALURU, DHNS: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son Yathindra has projected PWD Minister Satish Jarkiholi as the potential political successor to his father, triggering fresh speculations over the alleged power tussle between Siddaramaiah and his deputy DK Shivakumar.

Satish Jarkiholi

Speaking during a programme on Wednesday, Yathindra said: "Today, my father is at the fag end of his political career. In such a time, someone with ideological and progressive ideas should take leadership. I believe that Jarkiholi will take such a responsibility and be a model to everyone who believes in the ideology of the Congress."

Yathindra later clarified that he was referring to 2028 (when next Assembly elections are due), after which his father may not continue in electoral politics.

▸ Jarkiholi, Page 8

Scan the QR code to watch the video

3 gored to death by bulls during fest in Haveri

HAVERI, DHNS: Three people died in three separate incidents after being gored by bulls during the traditional 'Kobbari Hori Habba' events and a bull procession organised as part of 'Hatti Habba' (Deepavali festival) in the district on Wednesday.

The police said the deceased are Chandrashekhar Kodihalli (70) of Daneshwarinagar in Haveri, Ghanisab Bankapur (75) of Devihosur village in Haveri taluk and Bharath Hingameri (24) of Tilavalli in Hanagal taluk.

Details on Page 4

Defence buys worth Rs 79k cr get okay

NEW DELHI, PTI: The defence ministry on Thursday cleared proposals to procure weapons and military hardware worth Rs 79,000 crore, including Nag missiles, amphibious warfare ships and electronic intelligence and surveillance systems, to boost the combat capabilities of the three services. The proposals were cleared at a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Details on Page 8

Starting today, DH presents
POLITICAL THEATRE,
which provides a ring-side view of Bihar's poll battleground

Modi's Bihar blitz begins today

Rs 2L pitch: Wooing women, one cash transfer at a time

See Page 9

Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY
And
5 BENGALURU CITY CORPORATIONS

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
and Minister for Bengaluru City Development

A Precious Gift to the Citizens of Bengaluru

Historic Decision by Government of Karnataka

B-Khata to A-Khata Conversion & New Sites also get A-Khata

See training YouTube video

Kannada Version: https://tinyurl.com/v9naynyv English Version: https://tinyurl.com/3xjs6eu8

B-Khata to A-Khata Helpline: 94806 83695

Up to 2000 sqm

- Login using your Mobile & OTP @https://bbmp.karnataka.gov.in/BtoAKhata
- Enter EPID of your FINAL B-Khata & Fetch
- Aadhaar Authentication of Owners
- Confirm site Location, type of road in front of site
- Both converted & unconverted sites eligible (Flats not eligible)
- Print acknowledgement after paying Rs. 500/- as application fee
- Site visit by city corporations & confirmation
- Pay "Single Plot" approval fee @5% of guidance value of site & other charges
- Automatic Single Plot approval & A-Khata is issued as per eligibility

More than 2000 sqm

- Contact Registered Architect or Engineer
- Apply online @https://bpas.bbmpgov.in for any type of plot
- Upload required documents and CAD drawing
- Pay Initial Scrutiny Fee of Rs. 500
- Submit application online (Flats not eligible)
- Site inspection by visit
- Approval as per eligibility
- Payment of Applicable Fees
- Single Plot Approval Certificate and Drawing issued & A-Khata is issued as per eligibility

The Constitutional Fundamental duty of every Indian is to protect public property and renounce violence

B'luru scores high on 'cheating index'

Changing norms and easy access are fuelling infidelity, relationship experts say

TINI SARA ANIEN
TEAM METROLIFE

Infidelity, though not new, is reportedly rising in Bengaluru, driven by unmet needs, emotional dissatisfaction, and lack of intimacy, say relationship experts and divorce lawyers. The extramarital dating app Gleeden also highlights the city's prominence on India's "cheating map".

Bengaluru accounts for 17% of Gleeden's India users, mostly 30-45-year-old professionals. "Emotional dissatisfaction is the main reason for downloading the app, with many seeking emotional rather than physical companionship," country manager Sybil Shiddell tells *Metrolife*.

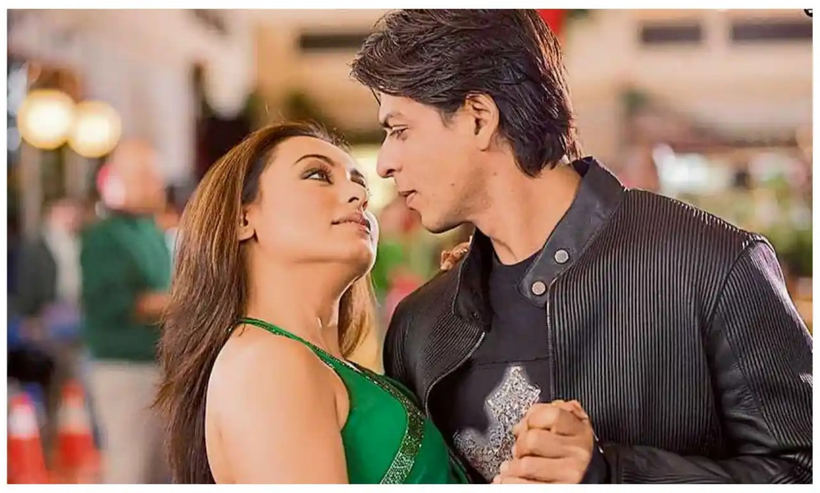
About 65% of users are men, 35% women, largely from affluent finance, law, engineering, or entrepreneurial backgrounds.

The app's Infidelity Study 2025 surveyed 1,510 people aged 18-60 across 12 cities. "In Bengaluru, 29% admitted to flirting on social media, while 53% reported some form of infidelity — 7% physical, 12% emotional and 34% both," explains Shiddell.

City-based relationship experts say most clients seeking help are in their 30s-50s, and infidelity does not always lead to divorce.

Psychologist Nithya J Rao says over half of her cases this year involved relationship issues, with around 20% linked to adultery. "It is often sought to fill an emotional void or compensate for mismatched compatibility. The cheating partner may turn to the workplace or a dating app," she explains.

Priya Vardharajan, founder of Durga India, a non-profit focused on women's safety and gender equity, notes adultery cases have risen by 40% in five years. "When women come to us, many initially cite emotional distance or lack of intimacy, but deeper conversations reveal infidelity," she says.



In the 2006 film 'Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna', the characters played by Shah Rukh Khan and Rani Mukerji get into an extramarital relationship. PIC: IMDB

Consultant clinical psychologist Muniswamy K S adds monthly cases have risen from about 60 to 100. "Affairs existed before, but limited communication prevented full-fledged relationships. Now calls, texts, and video chats make them easier to sustain," he adds.

Most cases involve men aged 27-38 from middle- and upper-middle-class families; women are typically under 35.

Manifold requests

City detective agencies say workplaces are the most common setting for affairs, followed by social circles, with social media making connections easier. Behavioural changes such as reduced communication, being overprotective of their phone, and defensiveness, often raise suspicion.

A surveillance expert at Garuda Detective Services, J C Nagar, says suspected infidelity cases have jumped from 2-3 per month in 2020 to over 40 now. "About 90% of our cases involve such investigations. Around 60% of clients are men suspecting wives and 40% are women checking on their husbands. Women in affairs are typically 35-55 and men are aged 26-48," he observes.

"Clients come to us when their partners start hiding phones, changing passwords, or deflecting blame. Some affairs have gone undetected for over 15 years," he adds.

Purushotham Mesta of Rajdhani Detective Agency, Vijayanagar, notes a three- to four-fold increase over five years, with 60% of clients being women. Men often have affairs with colleagues; women reconnect with old friends via social media, he adds.

Legal angle

Advocate Kusum Ranganathan says adultery-related divorces have risen 25-30% in five years. "It's not just men; women also have extramarital relationships," she notes. Some clients hire detectives or hackers to access social media or chat logs.

Love and arranged marriages are equally prone to infidelity, with 80% settling divorces privately via mutual consent.

Advocate Ian Lewis says infidelity allegations have risen 2-3 fold but are hard to prove. Most complaints come from women in their late 30s about men in their early 40s. He attributes the rise in infidelity to "opportunity and accessibility," including travel, discreet hotel apps, and online platforms.

Advocate Bojamma P K says divorce due to adultery is seen across all ages but is most common among working couples with limited time together.

Facing the heat: Why do some city restaurants struggle to stay afloat?

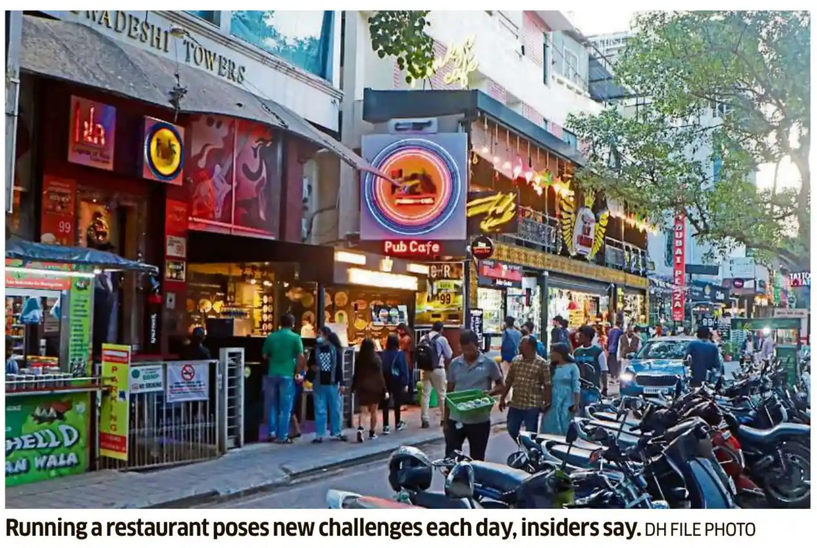
A social media post of a 22-year-old who described how he opened and shut his restaurant within a month has gone viral

RASHMI RAJAGOPAL
TEAM METROLIFE

A recent post on Reddit has highlighted the high failure rate of the restaurant business in the city. A Bengaluru man posted his experience of opening a restaurant in May and having to shut it down within a month. The 22-year-old spent Rs 6 lakh to set it up, paying a rent of Rs 30,000 with an initial income of Rs 2,000 to Rs 2,500 a day. However, "physical, mental, and financial challenges" of keeping it going took a toll.

Metrolife spoke to restaurateurs and chefs about the challenges they face running a successful business.

"There are a hundred variables. Every day is different and comes with new challenges. The number one problem is people management. The attrition rate is very high. And the industry is dynamic, so adaptability is important. Also the clients change every day, so we are catering to different tastes and preferences daily," says Kavan Kuttappa, who runs a popular ramen restaurant in the heart of the city. His second venture, a cocktail bar, is expected to open in the next few weeks.



Running a restaurant poses new challenges each day, insiders say. DH FILE PHOTO

The competition is high and there is less margin for error, explains Kuttappa, who previously worked as the head chef at one of the city's most popular restobars, The Permit Room, which shut down in 2021.

Not pandemic-proof

Anirudh Kheny shut his restaurant, 1Q1, after the pandemic. The Asian restaurant, which introduced Bengaluru to Nikkei cuisine (a fusion of Peruvian and Japanese cuisine), was running successfully until its last day. "For us, the unpredictability and uncertainty were major factors that contributed to the decision of shutting it down. The government rules were changing every other week. We started delivery but could not serve alcohol. We were not sure when we could open for good," he recalls.

After the shutdown, the team spent another year creating a new space — one with more outdoor seating to create Covid-proof seating, and a more casual vibe that catered to a wider audience. "It was an instant hit," says Kheny. Since then, he has opened five other restaurants across the city. However, he notes that the restaurant business has taken a hit across the country. But Bengaluru has it the worst. "There have been mass layoffs in the corporate world and things have become more expensive," he explains.

Focus and reinvention

Platforms like Investorant are attempting to simplify the process of setting up a successful food and beverage (F&B) venture. Guru Shivaram, one of its co-founders, points out that in his experience, the failure rate in the industry is 80% (within a certain category of restaurants). Started in 2022, they handle the business plan, conceptualisation, investments, real estate identification, human resources, and liaison. "We break ownership into fractional units, opening access to a wider pool of investors to lower risk. This way, the talent can dedicate all their time to focus on the product" Shivaram says. They currently have two F&B ventures on Lavelle Road, and one in Hyderabad. Three more are in development and will be launched in Bengaluru over the next three months.

Chethan Hegde, who until recently was the chapter head of National Restaurant Association of India, Bengaluru, estimates that over 20% of restaurants shut down within the first three years of opening. He runs 13 restaurants across the city. "When we were younger, we would frequent places like Pub World, Caesar's, Tiffany's and Black Cadillac. But they have all shut down over the years," he says, adding, "Whereas in cities like Mumbai, many restaurants that opened 60-70 years ago are still going strong. I think the key is reinvention. It is important to keep up with the times."

POPCORN

Joke pal

A girl from Sathyabhama University in Chennai filed an application before the Lokpal, saying she was facing gender discrimination. Turns out the vice-chancellor wasn't allowing boys and girls to sit on the same bench, and was thus causing distress among the students. The Lokpal dismissed her petition, saying her problem does not come under its jurisdiction. The Lokpal is a corruption watchdog, you see. Don't be surprised if you run into the poor student and she complains that a pal she trusted has let her down badly. Meanwhile, the seven-member Lokpal has called tenders — they want to buy seven BMW cars worth Rs 70 lakh each. Now, that must be well within their jurisdiction.

'Call it whatever you like': Trilok Gurtu on his music

The internationally renowned percussionist is playing in Bengaluru on Sunday

S R RAMAKRISHNA
TEAM METROLIFE

Trilok Gurtu

Percussion maestro Trilok Gurtu is performing a new set in Bengaluru on October 26. The concert features a European jazz ensemble, touring India for the first time.

"It is an international show after a very long time, and we have different compositions, different musicians," Gurtu told *Metrolife* in an online interview. He had visited Bengaluru last year for a show that showcased folk music.

Gurtu has collaborated with musicians across the world, releasing 20 albums in a career spanning six decades. His music is sometimes reminiscent of Shakti, the pathbreaking fusion band that combined jazz and Indian classical rhythms.

Known to innovate with traditional Indian instruments and a modern drum kit, Gurtu's music pursues new sounds. The ensemble coming to Bengaluru features Carlo Cantini (Italy), composer and co-producer with Gurtu, who plays the violin. Roland Cabezas (German-Spanish), known for his work with Toni Braxton, plays the guitar. The line-up also includes Jonathan Ihlenfeld (German), versatile bassist, and Ryan Carniaux (USA/Europe), trumpeter and professor of jazz.

Trilok Gurtu's first guru was his mother, the well-known Hindustani vocalist Shobha Gurtu. In his early days, he played percussion for film recordings in Mumbai. He also played Western percussion with jazz and rock bands, forming his first band in 1969.

Now a resident of Germany, Gurtu is touring India, with concerts lined up this weekend in three cities — Mumbai, Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

Gurtu sees his music as genre-defying. "Whatever name you give it is not correct. You can call it whatever you like," he says.

But he is not averse to the labels of jazz and Indian classical music, the improvisational potential of which he is constantly exploring. In Mumbai, where he grew up in the south Indian enclave of Matunga, he was fascinated by the rhythms of the mridangam, and began picking up its nuances. "Karnatik music has been underplayed, but now everyone is picking it up and the audience for konnakol (vocal articulation of beats) is growing," he says.

The Trilok Effect, Prestige Centre for Performing Arts, 6 pm, Sunday, Oct 26.

Heritage walk on Sunday: Explore Promenade Road

TEAM METROLIFE

A heritage walk on Sunday will shed light on the history of Promenade Road. It will focus on the origin of its name, its landmark institutions, and the people who once worked there. Colonial history researcher Sunil Pichamuthu will lead the 2 km walk as part of his initiative, Ken Yore Community (KYC).

The walk will cover educational institutions like Goodwill Girls' High School and churches such as C S I Wesley English Church, St Stephen's Lutheran Church, and St John's Church. It will also briefly stop by the Madras Sappers regiment.

Pichamuthu likes to focus on less-known stories. "A war memorial on this road, located within an institution, bears the name of George Hitchcock, a close relative of Alfred Hitchcock," he says. Promenade Road was once a wild landscape with woollen and yarn mills, and George Hitchcock worked in dyeing operations there.

St John's Church is one of the stops.

He also shares the adventurous side of Father Louis Froger. He was the principal of St Joseph's Boys' High School, which stood on the current site of St Germain Academy before moving to Museum Road. "He would cycle cross-country. On one trip to Ooty, he was chased by a tiger but escaped without a scratch," says Pichamuthu.

'KYC Colonial Stroll on Promenade Road', on October 26, from 9.30 am onwards. For booking, visit @kenyorecommunity on Instagram.

Kannada adaptation of David Harrower's 'Blackbird' to be staged next week

TEAM METROLIFE

City-based theatre group Bangalore Theatre Collective has adapted Scottish playwright David Harrower's 'Blackbird' (2005). Called 'Kattala Neralu', the play is directed by Venkatesh Prasad. It will premiere in Bengaluru next week as a part of the Ranga Shankara Theatre Festival.

Harrower's play was partly inspired by the crimes of sex offender Toby Studebaker. It focuses on a young woman, Una, who confronts a middle-aged man, Ray, 15 years after being sexually abused. During the assault, she was 12, and he, 40.

Prasad's play is set in modern day Bengaluru. He earlier adapted A R Gurney's 1989 play 'Love Letters'. When he was looking for a similar small cast play, he came across Harrower's play. "Among the many plays I have adapted and directed, this has been the most challenging. Such subjects are not talked about in our theatre and cinema. It's also emotionally taxing on actors to do such roles," Prasad tells *Metrolife*.

Siri Ravikumar and Balaji Manohar play Una and Ray.

Prasad states some statistics — out of 8,000 cases of abuse against children reported in 2024 in Karnataka, about 4,000 are POCSO cases — and says, "When reported, the predator may face a punishment, but how does a child get out of the trauma? There is no awareness about sexual grooming in India. Is there a support system for children handling trauma? The play tries to address these issues around sexual exploitation against children," he says.

Actors Siri Ravikumar and Balaji Manohar will play Una and Ray.

'Kattala Neralu' on November 1, 7.30 pm at Ranga Shankara, J P Nagar. Tickets available online.

EVENTS

Book launch

The book, 'Leadership in Action: Inspiring Stories and Strategies for Growth' by Padma C will be launched on October 26, 5 pm at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. Entry free. For details, call 96325 10126.

Dog show

Silicon City Kennel Club will host the All-India Championship Dog Show on November 1 and 2 from 7 am to 5 pm on both days at Esha Farms and Leisure, Yelahanka. For details, call 98455 53226.

Film screening

Parallel Cinema Club will host a screening of the 1969 film, 'The Cow', by Iranian filmmaker Dariush Mehrjui on October 25, 8 pm at Underline Center, Domlur. Tickets online.

Talk on responsible use of AI

Balaraman Ravindran from IIT Madras will deliver a talk on the responsible use of generative AI at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, on October 25, at 6.30 pm. He will delve into the limitations and vulnerabilities of GenAI, and give tips on how one can use these tools responsibly while preserving human judgement and accountability. Ravindran has done over three decades of pioneering work in machine learning and reinforcement learning. The talk will be followed by a Q&A with the audience.

To RSVP, visit bangaloreinternationalcentre.org.

Plant renting takes root in workspaces

It eliminates recurring costs of buying new plants and makes disposal easier, business owners say

BARKHA KUMARI
TEAM METROLIFE

In Bengaluru, offices and restaurants are opting to rent indoor plants long-term instead of buying them, as the latter often leads to recurring costs when plants die.

Those in the business say rentals, typically on one- or two-year contracts, work out to be more cost-effective since they include maintenance and replacements, and in some cases, planters. Service teams visit anywhere from daily to once every 10 days for upkeep: cleaning leaves, fertilising, pest control, moving the plants outdoors to soak up sunlight, and replacing damaged ones.

Parthasarathy, proprietor of the R T Nagar-based Terrassic, says the advantage of plant rentals lies in the services and convenience it offers. "If you buy 200 plants at Rs 150 each, that's a one-time cost of Rs 30,000. For a two-year rental, you would pay Rs 8,000-Rs 10,000 a month for the same set. However, you don't need to hire a dedicated horticulture team to care for the plants," he says. He has five clients who have rented between 200 and 500 plants.

Hebbal-based Doorplants Services has about 25 clients, all corporate offices. "Companies prefer fixed budgets and transparent costs. When you buy, plants may die and replacements become a recurring expense. But rental contracts ensure longevity," says founder Ranganath.

At The Green Yard in HSR Layout, nearly nine times out of ten, clients opt for rentals, and many continue for over four years. Co-founder Sakthi Venkat says contracts can typically end when companies relocate, reduce their floor space, or move to co-working offices. When a client moves out, her staff is tasked with plant removal.

Rentals can also end when management changes. "Some like real plants around. Others prefer artificial ones," Ranganath reasons.

Plant recommendation is another value-added service. Myna Batavia, founder of Green Carpet — The Garden Centre in HSR Layout, often visits restaurants to assess the space and suggest suitable plants. "Some plants spread out, so you can't place them where people sit. Others work well near sunny windows to cut the heat," she explains. Even planter shapes matter. Rectangular ones, for instance, can optimise space in a high-footfall corridor.

The horticulture wing of The Association of People with Disability (PAD) also rents out plants. Sundari Ishwar, who is associated with APD, says the rental scene has changed greatly. "Earlier, we had fewer varieties of dracaena, aglaonema, and philodendron. Now there are many types of these, along with sansevierias and scheffleras. There's variation in colour, leaf size and how bushy they grow. There's also demand for miniaturised plants, like anthuriums and palms. And with newer office buildings designed to let in more sunlight, even sun-loving and flowering plants can now be kept indoors," she says.

This Indiranagar restaurant has been renting plants for over two years. PIC: TERRASSIC

3 arrested for gang rape; suspects filmed the act

Cops hunt for kingpin, two others

BENGALURU, DHNS

Police have arrested three men in connection with the gang rape of a Kolkata woman in northwest Bengaluru on October 21. Three more suspects, including the alleged kingpin, are absconding, police said on Thursday.

The 27-year-old survivor, a bridal makeup artist, was at her rented house in Gangondanahalli, off Tumakuru Road, when six men barged in around 10 pm.

Earlier that evening, around 7 pm, her elder son had received a text message warning of a "raid" at their house at midnight, advising them to stay alert.

The six men arrived on motorbikes, posing as informants from the Peenya police station. Speaking in a mix of Kannada and Hindi, they accused the family of running a prostitution racket and supplying ganja, demanding Rs 1 lakh in cash and some ganja as a bribe.

One of the men claimed he had served three months in the Bengaluru Central Prison and had recently been released.

When the family refused to comply, the gang attacked the woman, her two male relatives and her female roommate with cricket bats, sparing her two minor children.

The roommate managed to escape, but two of the men tied up the male family members in a washroom, dragged the survivor into a room on the first floor and sexually assaulted her.

One suspect stood guard at the entrance while three others waited outside on motorbikes.

"The two men even filmed the rape before robbing cash, mobile phones and other valuables," a senior police officer investigating the case told *DH*.

The survivor's elder son alerted the police control room (112), following which a team from the Madanayakanahalli police station rushed to the spot and began their investigations.

Three special police teams traced and arrested three suspects on Wednesday night by tracking the man who had sent the text message to the survivor's son.

Police later apprehended two more suspects and are on the lookout for three others, including the alleged kingpin.

Police have recorded the survivor's statement and seized the video footage of the crime.

"Two of the suspects are habitual offenders. We are gathering more details about the others who helped the main accused escape. The survivor identified some of the men during her statement," the officer added.

A case has been registered under sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita related to gang rape, wrongful confinement, causing hurt with dangerous weapons, robbery or dacoity with intent to cause grievous hurt, mischief and unlawful assembly.

Doctor faces arrest over sexual harassment charges

BENGALURU, DHNS: Ashok Nagar police arrested a 56-year-old doctor in Central Bengaluru for allegedly sexually harassing a patient and asking her to undress under the pretext of treatment.

The arrested, Dr Praveen Rodriguez, worked at St Joseph Clinic in Austin Town, as per the FIR.

Police said the 21-year-old woman alleged that on October 18, at 7.30 pm, she visited the doctor for consultation on skin issues.

She claimed that during the 30-minute consultation, Praveen hugged her and touched her inappropriately.

"He made me take off my clothes and saw me in the nude and asked me to co-operate sexually and he would book a room for it," the woman was quoted as saying in the FIR.

Police booked Praveen under BNS sections 75 (sexual harassment) and 79 (word, gesture or act intended to insult the modesty of a woman). A probe is underway.

Sales exec arrested for cheating woman promising marriage

BENGALURU, DHNS: Marathahalli police on Thursday arrested a 26-year-old sales executive for allegedly cheating a woman on the pretext of marriage.

The victim, from Andhra Pradesh, filed a complaint against Mohammed Isaq under charges of criminal intimidation and intentional insult to provoke breach of peace.

The HSR Layout police initially registered the FIR, which was later transferred to the Amruthahalli police as the offence comes under their jurisdiction.

The woman met Isaq, who works as a sales executive in a mall, on social media in October last year. They exchanged numbers, chatted, and met near a mall in Thanisandra on October 30. Isaq allegedly took her to a hotel to discuss marriage, where he had a physical relationship, promising to marry her soon. The accused later claimed he needed time to convince his family, but began avoiding the victim.

She grew suspicious after noticing him chatting with other women and later discovered he got engaged to another woman.

When confronted on September 19, Isaq allegedly abused her verbally and threatened her with dire consequences if she continued to contact him.

Strong chargesheet soon over murder of surgeon's wife: Top cop

Accused remanded to judicial custody after questioning

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh on Thursday said investigators have gathered key evidence to file a strong chargesheet in the case of a city-based surgeon accused of murdering his wife with an anaesthetic drug.

"The forensic evidence and subsequent probe have given clarity on how the crime was committed and what the probable motive was. The police are building the evidence-based chargesheet as required," Singh said.

Dr Mahendra Reddy GS, 31, was arrested in Manipal on October 14. Marathahalli police booked him for murdering his wife, Dr Kruthika M Reddy (29), by administering propofol in multiple doses between April 21 and 24.

Kruthika and Mahendra

On Thursday, he was produced before a Bengaluru court as his nine-day police custody ended. He was remanded to judicial custody, police said.

Police arrested Mahendra nearly six months after Kruthika's death on April 24, following a forensic report confirming the presence of propofol in several of her organs.

DH was the first to report that Mahendra had confessed to police that he procured the controlled anaesthetic substance propofol and injected it into Kruthika through the intravenous method, leading to her death.

Hoax bomb threat to IndiGo flight: Two passengers detained

BENGALURU, DHNS: Two passengers were detained and questioned by the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) police after an IndiGo flight from Dubai to Mangaluru made an emergency landing at Terminal 2 following a bomb threat that later turned out to be a hoax.

The incident occurred on October 18 when the crew of flight 6E 1468 discovered a handwritten note inside the lavatory warning of a bomb on board. Treating it as a serious security threat, the pilot diverted the aircraft to Bengaluru for an emergency landing to ensure passenger safety.

The aircraft was moved to an isolated bay for inspection, and the KIAL police were immediately alerted. Security teams conducted thorough checks but found nothing suspicious.

A senior police officer told *DH*, "Based on a complaint, we detained both passengers and recorded their statements. One of them, who frequently used the lavatory due to illness, denied writing the threat message. After questioning, both were released on station bail."

Following a complaint from terminal authorities, police registered an FIR on October 19 and initiated an investigation. One of the detained passengers is from Mangaluru, while the other is a Bengaluru resident.

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Drugs worth Rs 5.5 cr seized; 2 Nigerians held

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Central Crime Branch (CCB) of the Bengaluru police has seized drugs worth Rs 5.5 crore in two separate cases and arrested two foreign nationals.

In the first case, CCB sleuths arrested two Nigerian nationals near Hebbagodi following a tip-off. Investigators recovered 1.47 kg of MDMA crystals and Rs 42,800 in cash, believed to be proceeds of the crime. The seized contraband is estimated to be worth Rs 2.5 crore.

During interrogation, the accused reportedly admitted to arriving in India on business visas before turning to drug peddling for easy money. A case has been registered under relevant sections of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

In the second case, acting on information shared by Bengaluru Customs officials, the CCB seized 3 kg of hydro ganja worth Rs 3 crore. The drugs had been concealed in foreign-branded biscuit and chocolate packets and were being smuggled from Thailand, according to investigators.

The case has been registered at the KG Nagar police station, and further investigation is underway.

Student found dead in PG room after inhaling insecticide fumes

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 21-year-old student was found dead in his paying guest accommodation in Ashwath Nagar, east Bengaluru, after allegedly inhaling toxic fumes from an insecticide spray.

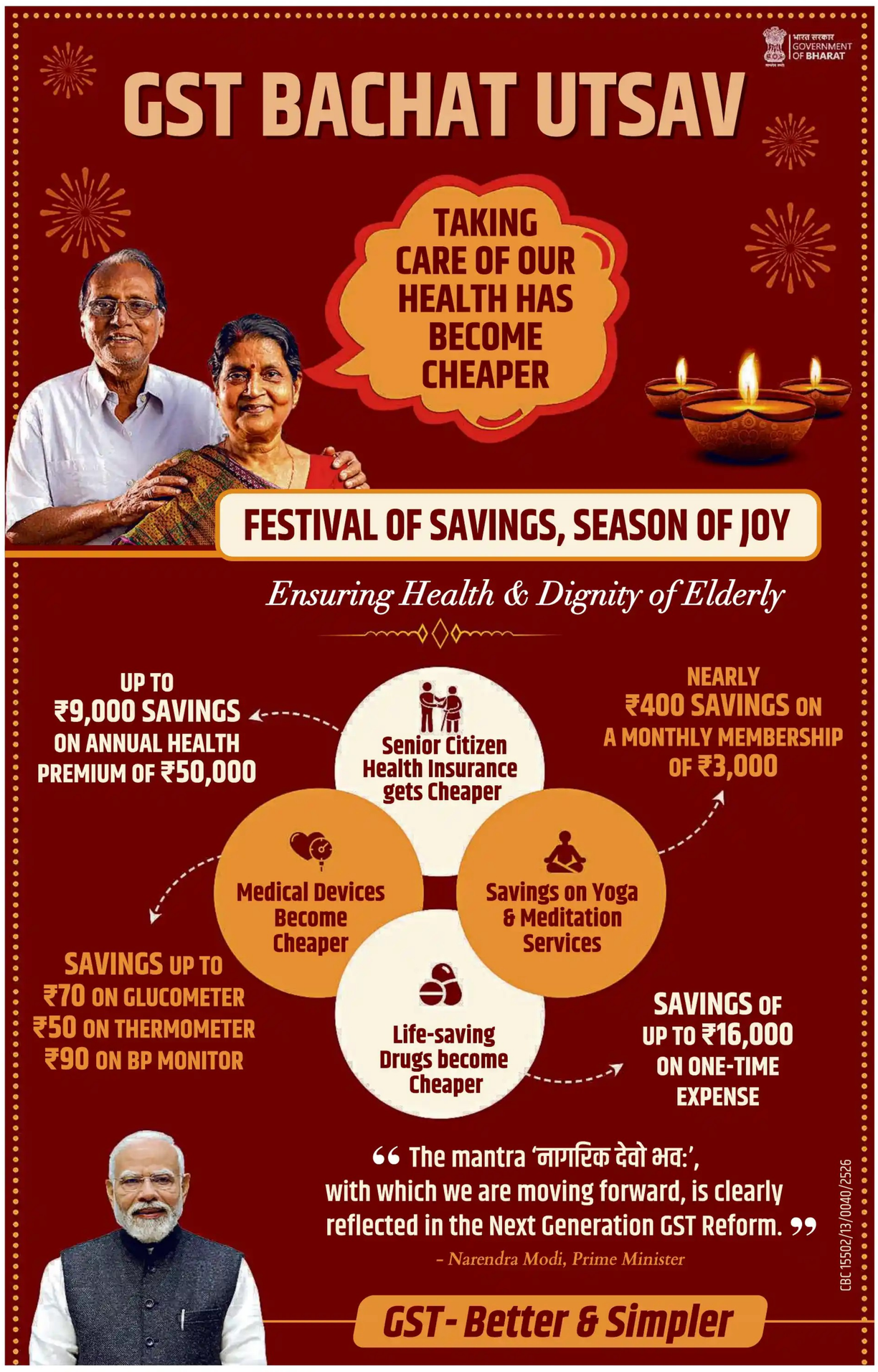
Pawan, a native of Tirupati, had returned to Bengaluru on Monday night from his hometown without informing the PG owner.

His three roommates were still away on a Deepavali break, police said.

He went into his room and slept, unaware that the PG owner had sprayed a bug disinfectant inside.

On Tuesday morning, a security guard checking the rooms found him lying unconscious. Pawan was rushed to a hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

HAL police have registered an Unnatural Death Report and are investigating.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◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Postal Department: Job fair; Shobha Karandlaje and others; NGO Hall, Cubbon Hall; 10 am.

Vachana Jyoti Balaga: Vachana mela by children; Kalagrama, Mallattahalli; 9.30 am.

Ministry of Textiles: Golden jubilee celebration in CSB-National Silkworm Seed Organisation; Nimhans Convention Centre, Nimhans; 10.30.

CULTURAL

Kannada Film Chamber of Commerce: Screening of two films 'Bhoomi Tayiya Chochhala Maga' and 'Kurigalu Saar Kurigalu'; Rajkumar Bhavan, Karnataka Kalavidara Sangha; Chamarajapet; 10.30 am.

Susvaralaya College of Music: Presentation of award; veena recital by Geeta Ramanand and others; Indian Institute of World Culture, BP Wadia Road, Basavanagudi; 4.30 pm.

Karnataka Nataka Academy: Inauguration by Baraguru Ramachandrappa and others; Bhanu Nani Angala, Suchitra, Banashankari 2nd Stage; 5.30 pm.

Nrutya Samrat Arts Academy: Bharatanatya Rangapravesha by Vidhi Kamat; Ravindra Kalakshetra, JC Road; 5.30 pm.

RELIGIOUS

Raghavendraswami Mutt: Discourse on 'Mahabharata Upakhyanagalu' Anandateerthachar Malagi; Mutt premises, Sudhindranagar; Malleswaram; 7 pm.

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Generally cloudy sky with light rain

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	28.0°C
Minimum	20.0°C
Rainfall	--
Humidity	95%
Sunset (Oct 24)	5:57 pm
Sunrise (Oct 25)	6:11 am
Moonrise	7:26 am
Moonset	7:04 pm

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

Mechanic kills ragpicker over Rs 10

BENGALURU, DHNS: Konanakunte police on Wednesday arrested a 22-year-old mechanic for allegedly bludgeoning a 40-year-old ragpicker to death with a stone in Yelachenahalli.

The accused, under the influence of alcohol, had snatched Rs 10 from the victim to buy tea.

Acting on a tip-off, police found the man dead outside a closed shop, his head crushed. A murder case was registered, and the body was sent for post-mortem. CCTV footage helped identify the accused, Sahil Pasha, a resident of Ilyas Nagar, who was arrested within four hours.

Preliminary investigation revealed that Sahil, often irregular at work, loitered on the streets and picked quarrels with locals.

On Wednesday night, he confronted the victim for money. When the man refused, saying, "Why should I pay you?", an argument followed. Enraged, Sahil returned later, found the victim asleep, and struck him on the head with a stone, killing him.

Lawyer found dead by railway track

BENGALURU, DHNS: A 32-year-old advocate, missing for two days, was found dead near a railway track in Jnanabharati on Thursday.

Police identified the deceased as Hemanth Kumar V from JP Nagar.

Investigations revealed that Kumar's wife, Neha, also an advocate, had filed a missing persons complaint on Tuesday at the Puttenahalli police station.

The railway police were informed by the locopilot of Hampi Express about a body near the track.

Police who arrived at the spot confirmed the deceased to be Kumar.

The body was sent for autopsy, and an investigation has been launched to determine the cause of death. Further probe is underway.

City hospitals flooded with cracker-related eye injuries

BENGALURU, DHNS: Cracker-related eye injuries continue to rise across the city, with both adults and children suffering grievous burns and vision damage.

Narayana Nethralaya reported 93 eye injury cases in three days, ranging from mild corneal abrasions to severe corneal tears, epithelial defects, and lens dislocation. Most victims were children and adult men.

Minto Ophthalmic Hospital reported 37 cases, including 14 grievous injuries. Seventeen victims injured themselves, while 20 were bystanders. One patient was also admitted to the burns ward of Victoria Hospital.

High-density crackers such as atom bombs, bijili crackers, bijili rolls, and flower pots caused most of the injuries.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client (**'Client'**) is desirous of entering into a sale transaction in connection with the immovable property morefully described in the **'Schedule'** hereunder and is hereinafter referred to as the **'Schedule Property'** with **M/s. League Ventures,** a registered partnership firm, having its office at Flat No. G2, Road No. 34, Aditya Elegance, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, Telangana (**'Owner'**). The Owner has represented to our Client that Owner is the sole and absolute owner of the Schedule Property, with unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owner, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property is/ are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Property or their objections, if any, to the aforementioned sale transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof of such claim/s or objections, so as to reach us at the address given below within a period of 15 (fifteen) days from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owner has/ have any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Property. Further any claims or alleged interests, if any, which are not received within the said period of 15 (fifteen) days shall be deemed to have been consciously waived and disregarded for all intents and purposes and shall thereafter not be binding on our Client and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said sale transaction in connection with the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE

(Description of the Schedule Property)

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'I am a proud Kannadiga': Kiran Shaw shuts down trolls

BENGALURU, DHNS

Billionaire entrepreneur Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw - who has been vocal about the poor condition of roads and the increasing number of garbage spots - has hit back at trolls who questioned her Kannadiga roots.

While a few critics dug up an earlier post in which she claimed she was a Gujarati, others including civic groups and industry leaders voiced their support for her contributions to the state.

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw.

"I was born in this city and have spent seven decades loving my city, my Kannada culture, and can read, write, and speak this wonderful language. I don't think I am answerable to anyone who questions my loyalty to Karnataka. I am a proud Kannadiga," said Shaw, who is also the founder of the pharmaceutical company Biocon.

Many netizens hailed her contributions to Karnataka, and particularly to Bengaluru, urging her not to respond to trolls.

"A leading industrialist whose entrepreneurial spirit has generated scores of high-paying jobs in the state and nation is having to justify questioning the breakdown in civic governance. Shame on the muckrakers. Ignore the pots calling the kettle black," one such post read.

Citizens Agenda for Bengaluru, a civic group, said Kiran Mazumdar has every right to ask questions of the government, just as every other resident of the city.

"We applaud anyone who raises their voice for our dear city, and engages with the city's governance. The Government is the citizens' servant, not the other way around. But we'd certainly appreciate it if people of her stature not waste the clout they have in asking for superficial asks, and they employ their considerable influence to demand Systemic Reform, Constitutionality, Transparency, Accountability, Rule of Law, Masterplanning, etc.," the group said.

In another post, she clarified that she never made an offer to fund road repair works in Bengaluru and questioned the source of reports claiming that she had offered to repair roads.

GBA likely to expand as DCM bats for inclusion of 'developed' panchayats

Says parts of Anekal Assembly segment could also be added

BENGALURU, DHNS

The jurisdiction of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) — which is currently the same as the now-dissolved Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) — is likely to be expanded, albeit in a phased manner.

During his visit to various parts of south-east Bengaluru on Thursday, Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar said a meeting of elected representatives has been convened on Friday to study the pros and cons of bringing developed panchayats under the GBA limits.

"A large part of Electronics City, Bommasandra, areas beyond Whitefield and Yelahanka, as well as parts of Magadi Road, have already witnessed significant urban growth," he said, adding parts of the Anekal assembly constituency will also be brought under the GBA limits in the future.

He pointed out that the collection of garbage in areas that fall just outside the GBA boundary is a challenge. "We have to fix accountability. The proposal to bring these areas under the GBA will be discussed seriously. A committee under the leadership of Lokayukta Justice B S Patil is preparing a report on this," Shivakumar said.

The government, he added, is also planning to convene a meeting with representatives from IT and BT companies.

When asked about the approaching deadline for pothole filling, he said, "Officials have been assigned responsibilities, and they are doing their job. In some places, we are asphalting entire stretches of roads. The rains, however, are affecting the schedule."

Conference in Bengaluru on October 30

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday said Union Urban Development Minister Manohar Lal Khattar will chair a meeting of urban development ministers from southern states in Bengaluru on October 30. Speaking to reporters, he said the state government would submit a memorandum to Khattar, seeking financial support for the development of Bengaluru.

BMTC e-bus drivers protest over non-payment of Deepavali bonus

BENGALURU, DHNS: Operations of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) were mildly affected on Thursday morning as electric bus drivers staged a protest at Depot 16 in Deepanjali Nagar over non-payment of the Deepavali bonus.

Driver deployment for the BMTC's electric buses is handled by the manufacturer, Tata Motors, on a contract basis.

"It was a petty issue, as the drivers were unhappy about not receiving the Deepavali bonus. However, the protest impacted our operations, and the manufacturers have been given a strict warning to ensure this is not repeated," a senior BMTC official told *DH*.

About 120 bus schedules operate out of the depot daily, and around 50 drivers took part in the protest.

Similar demonstrations were reported earlier this week at the Yeshwantpur and Jayanagar depots.

3 gored to death by bulls in separate incidents in Haveri

HAVERI, DHNS

Three people died in three separate incidents after being gored by bulls during the traditional 'Kobbari Hori Habba' events and a bull procession organised as part of 'Hatti Habba' (Deepavali festival) in the district on Wednesday.

The police said the deceased are Chandrashekhar Kodihalli (70) of Daneshwarinagar in Haveri, Ghanisab Bankapur (75) of Devihosur village in Haveri taluk and Bharath Hingameri (24) of Tilavalli in Hanagal taluk.

Sources said Chandrashekhar, a retired Hescom employee, was walking along the old P B Road in Haveri town when a bull participating in the competition near Veerabhadreshwar temple ran on to the road and gored him. Local residents shifted him to the Haveri district hospital, where he succumbed to the injuries.

At Devihosur village in Haveri rural station limits, a bull taking part in a festival procession panicked and attacked Ghanisab, who was sitting on a raised platform near a house in the village.

The bull's horn pierced his neck and chest. Though he was rushed to the hospital, he succumbed to his injuries on the way.

The third fatality occurred at Tilavalli village in Adur police station limits, where a bull taming contest was underway.

Bharath, who was watching the event, was gored in the chest and fell to the ground, sustaining a severe head injury. He was taken to the Haveri district hospital, where he was declared dead.

Haveri Superintendent of Police Yashoda Vantagodi said two persons were killed in two separate bull taming events and another died in a procession. The organisers had not taken permission for the bull-taming events and the police were investigating the incidents, she said.

Youths try to tame the 'Haveri Elukoti' bull during a taming event organised in front of the Veerabhadreshwara temple on the occasion of Deepavali in Haveri on Thursday.
DH PHOTO/MALATESH ICHCHANGI

2nd int'l airport: AAI report soon, says minister

State to consult firms involved in developing Navi Mumbai, Noida airports

BENGALURU, DHNS

Industries Minister M B Patil on Thursday said that the Airports Authority of India (AAI) was expected to submit its pre-feasibility report for the second international airport near Bengaluru in 2-3 days.

Speaking to reporters here, the minister said, "We will place the report in the Cabinet. We will also consult the companies involved in developing Navi Mumbai and Noida airports."

Further, the minister said, "Airport construction companies would also evaluate the financial feasibility of the proposed locations. It is not that they will build the airport wherever the government allocates land. We have initiated the process keeping in mind the clause that prohibits the establishment of another international airport within 150 Km radius of Kempegowda International Airport until 2033. If we begin the groundwork now, the second airport will be ready by then. Such a huge project will take a minimum of 5 to 6 years."

Meanwhile, Patil clarified that the second international airport near Bengaluru will be finalised purely on the basis of merit and other considerations.

"Legislators and stakeholders have differences of opinions regarding the location which we have suggested. However, the final decision will be based on the feasibility and viability reports following the AAI's opinion," the minister said.

In March 2025, the state government finalised three locations for the second international airport: two on Kanakapura road near Kaggalipura and Harohalli, the third site near Chikkasolur on the Nelamangala-Kunigal Road. The AAI conducted the inspections in April. While some legislators demanded the airport be set up at Tumakuru others, including Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, wanted it to come up near Kanakapura.

"There may be different wishes and demands from public and elected representatives. The location will be finalised based on the feasibility study, passenger and cargo load," Patil added.

The Karnataka government planned to build the second international airport near Bengaluru following the rise in numbers of air passengers and also due to the Tamil Nadu government's plan to build an international airport near its border town Hosur, which is 75 km from the existing Bengaluru international airport. Karnataka's aim is to keep the airport ready by 2031.

Kadlekai Parishe to begin on Nov 17, run for five days

BENGALURU, DHNS: Kadlekai Parishe, Bengaluru's own annual groundnut fair, will be held for five days this year, instead of the usual two days.

The fair will begin on November 17 and will be celebrated on a grand scale, according to Minister for Muzrai Ramalinga Reddy, who held a meeting in this regard on Thursday.

MLAs Ravi Subramanya (Basavanagudi) and Uday Garudachar (Chickpet), members of the Karnataka Rajya Dharmik Parishath and other officials were present at the meeting.

As per tradition, the inaugural ceremony will be held at the Sri Basavanna Temple in Basavanagudi at 10 am, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar in attendance.

According to the Muzrai Department, Bull Temple Road, Gandhi Bazaar and NR Road will be decorated on all the five days.

Awareness campaigns will be held for shopkeepers and the public, urging them to avoid plastic bags and use cloth bags instead.

In past years, contractors awarded the tax collection tender had forcibly collected excessive fees from vendors. As a result, the tender has been withdrawn, and the practice of not collecting fees from vendors on Bull Temple Road will continue this year, officials said.

Installation and repair of street lights, deployment of additional CCTV cameras at key locations, fire and emergency vehicles, first-aid facilities, and marshals for crowd control will be arranged, the department said.

The fair had attracted nearly five lakh people last year.

Residents protest new tunnel ramp near Sankey Tank

BENGALURU, DHNS

Residents and civic groups have launched a fresh petition opposing the proposed tunnel road project after Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Ltd (B.SMILE) introduced a new exit ramp near Sankey Tank.

They have demanded that the government scrap the entire 16.75-km project.

The online petition on Change.org raises alarm over the "sudden" design change, which cancels three of the four ramps planned at Mehkri Circle and adds a new one linking the tunnel near Windsor Manor to a point adjacent to Sankey Tank, about 2.5 km away.

Petitioners warned that the new alignment could cause "serious ecological, hydrological and geological damage" to the Sankey Lake area and threaten landmark structures nearby.

As per the revised plan, the ramp is expected to pass below or near Stella Maris School, TTD Kalyana Mantapa and Chowdaiah Memorial Hall.

"Hundreds of cars will exit from this ramp every hour, causing gridlock at the Sankey Road–18th Cross junction in Malleswaram," the petition read.

It added that the increased vehicular load will worsen congestion for local traffic and fail to achieve the project's aim of easing commute time between Central Silk Board and Hebbal.

The petition also claimed that the Sankey Tank bund and nearby water aquifers could be at risk. "The construction will damage tree roots, alter groundwater flow and threaten the lake's natural ecosystem," it read, adding that tunnelling debris could pollute and destabilise nearby areas.

Residents have criticised the lack of public consultation. "If a detailed project report was prepared after extensive study, it appears that no in-depth study has been done for this new ramp, which was announced suddenly," they noted.

The 16.75-km tunnel road, among Bengaluru's most ambitious infrastructure projects, has already drawn criticism for its potential impact on several lakes, including Hebbal, Nagawara and Lalbagh.

TOIL COMES TO NOUGHT

Rainwater has flooded vast tracts of coconut farms in Kadur taluk of Chikkamagaluru district following heavy rains over the last two days. Over 30 tanks in the taluk are overflowing. Meanwhile, Mysuru, Hassan, Mandya and Kodagu districts too received copious rains. DH PHOTO

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I, KASHI VISHWANATH CHARI PURUSHOTHAMACHARI, Residing At Papagni Matha Kalavara Village And Post Chickballapur 562103 have changed my name to KASHIVISHWANATHA CHARY PURUSHOTHAMACHARI Vide Affidavit dated 21.10.2025 sworn before advocate and notary K.H. Venkatappa, Chickaballapur.

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CHANGE OF NAME
I Suni Chenichery Nambiar W/o Santhosh Kumar Vadakayil R/o B-002 Keerthi Harmony Apts, Raghavendra Nagar, Horamavu Road, Ramamurthy Nagar, Blore - 16 Have Changed My Name to Suni Nambiar, Vide Affidavit Date 29-9-25, Sworn Before Notary Ms. B. Chitra, Blore Henceforth I Shall be called as Suni Nambiar Only.
I, GURUDATTA PATIL, residing at Laggere, Bengaluru-58 have changed my name as GURUDATTA RUDRANI PATIL vide affidavit dated 23/10/2025 before Notary K.S. Bammappanavar, Bengaluru
I, JYOTHI BYSANI NAGARAJ, Residing at No.Old 51/1, New 111 Sannidi Road, Behind APS College Basavanagudi, Bengaluru 560004 have changed my name to JYOTHI SRIDHAR Vide Affidavit dated 21.10.2025 sworn before advocate and notary K.H. Venkatappa, Chickaballapur.
CHANGE OF NAME
I, SONIYA SHARIFF, residing at No. B-29, 1105, 2nd Floor, BDA Flats, Austin Town, Vivekanagar, Bengaluru- 560047, have changed my name to SOCORRINHA BERTA VAZ vide affidavit dated 23-10-2025 before notary M.Narendran, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be called as SOCORRINHA BERTA VAZ only.
I, MR. SYED MOHSIN, Father of Minor son SYED MOHSIN ZAIN Residing at #416, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross, Opp HLRC, Whitefield, Bengaluru-560066, is changing to New name SYED ZAIN, vide affidavit dated 22/10/2025 before Notary Veena J, Bengaluru.
Lost
DOCUMENT LOST
We, Meda Krishna Murthy S/o Late. Lakshmi Narayanaiah.M, aged about 64 years, R/at No.313/53, 7th Main, Wilson Garden, opp K.J. English School, Adugodi, Bengaluru South-560 030 and K.V. Sathyanarayana Babu S/o Late. K.V. Venkataramaiah Setty, aged about 63 years, R/at No.6, 3rd Main Mount Joy Extn, Hanumanth Nagar, Bengaluru -560 019, I hereby inform the General Public that, I lost the sale deeds dated 20-04-2015 registered as document No.543/2015-16 and duplicate copy of the sale deed dated 21-08-2006 Document No. 2628/06-07, 9th Cross Road, Sunkenahalli adjacent sites, Bangalore present ward No.155, Hanumanthanagar PID No.53-54-43 and bounded on East by Road, West by : Site bearing No. 28/A, North by : Site bearing No,35 and South by : Road, measuring East to West 24 feet and North to South 30 feet, I also complained at Bengaluru City Police Lost Report No.1845229/2025 dt. 10/10/2025. The above said property documents lost in Transist.
If anybody got the above document please be inform to this Mobile No. 98440 46255.

Rs 80 paid for 'each deleted vote' in Aland Assembly seat, finds SIT

Team questioned 30 people, including 6 'prime suspects'

BENGALURU, DHNS:

In a major revelation, the probe by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the state police, investigating the alleged vote theft in Aland Assembly constituency of Kalaburagi district, indicated that suspects were paid Rs 80 for every successfully deleted vote.

The probe team also zeroed in on at least six suspects allegedly involved in the attempts made to get votes deleted in the Assembly segment ahead of the 2023 Assembly elections, according to sources.

The case gained momentum after Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, in September 2025, accused Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar of refusing to share information required to investigate the case.

Gandhi had alleged that the CID, which was previously probing the allegations, had written to the Election Commission (EC) 18 times, seeking technical details, but received no response. Congress' B R Patil won the seat against BJP's Subhash Guttedar by 10,348 votes.

Following the charges, the Siddaramaiah government formed the SIT to probe the case registered in Aland police station on February 21, 2023, along with any other fresh cases.

The order appointing the SIT noted that attempts were made to delete 6,018 voters from the electoral rolls in Aland, but only 24 voters were deleted. The remaining 5,994 votes weren't deleted as the applications were found to be incorrect.

Now, the SIT has questioned around 30 suspects, of whom six were said to be 'strong suspects'.

The probe indicated that the six suspects were linked to a data centre in Kalaburagi, where applications were submitted to get the votes deleted. One suspect reportedly fled to Dubai.

The SIT subsequently raided the premises linked to the suspects. They had also raided Guttedar, who later claimed that the documents found burnt in Aland during the SIT's visit were waste dumped by his servants after cleaning his house for Deepavali.

Full extent of fraud yet to emerge, says Cong

With the SIT zeroing in on at least six suspects in the case of attempted deletion of votes in the Aland constituency, the Congress on Thursday claimed that the "vote theft by BJP" is a "direct attack on democracy" and that the full extent of the irregularities is yet to emerge, reports DHNS from New Delhi.

The party said this exposure pertains to "just one Assembly seat" and that "revelations of where else BJP systematically carried out such vote theft are yet to come".

"The SIT investigation revealed that in this scam, fake applications were filed to delete names of 6,018 voters, for which a total payment of Rs 4.8 lakh was made," the Congress said on X.

"This vote theft by BJP is a direct attack on democracy, where the rights of the poor and marginalised are being snatched away and their voices suppressed. But no more. The public has understood their intentions and will teach them a stern lesson" it said.

Will stake claim for CM post after 2028 elections, says Satish Jarkiholi

Politics impossible sans Ahinda leadership in state, says minister

BELAGAVI, DHNS

Public Works and district incharge Minister Satish Jarkiholi said on Thursday that Ahinda leadership did exist in the state and politics was not possible without it.

The minister said he would stake claim for the chief minister's post after the 2028 Assembly elections. The Congress high command would take a decision on this, Jarkiholi said.

He told reporters at Kakati village in the taluk that elections to the Assembly were about 30 months away and that there would be lot of changes by then.

On MLC Yatindra Siddaramaiah's statement that he (Satish) was a potential successor to the mantle of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah after the 2028 polls, Jarkiholi said it was his individual opinion and that he would not react to it.

Cong MLAs slam Yatindra

Two Congress MLAs have slammed Yatindra over his statement on Satish Jarkiholi being Siddaramaiah's successor, saying the statement is 'childish,' reports DHNS from Ramanagar & Davangere.

"He is an MLC and not even an MLA. Yatindra should speak within his limits," Hussain told reporters at Ankanahalli in Ramanagar taluk.

"If we say something on the issue of leadership change, the party issues notice to us. But nothing happens when others speak on the matter," the MLA said.

In Davangere, party MLA Basavaraju V Shivanganga told reporters, "I have been issued a notice for my remarks on the CM's post. The party should take the statement made by Yatindra seriously. Appropriate action should be taken against this," Basavaraju said.

He said Yatindra should not make 'childish statements' and that he was trying to create confusion.

The party high command should pay attention, Basavaraju said.

B'luru-Mumbai superfast to run via Hubballi: Minister

Service likely to link SMVT Bengaluru & CSMT Mumbai

BENGALURU, DHNS

It's official. The proposed superfast train between Bengaluru and Mumbai will run via Hubballi, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw has confirmed.

In a letter to Dharwad MP and Union minister Pralhad Joshi on Wednesday, Vaishnaw said the new service was planned via Davangere, Hubballi and Belagavi.

The minister had first announced plans for the train in late September, in response to a request from Bangalore South MP L S Tejasvi Surya.

The demand for a superfast train between the two cities has been pending for decades. Citizens have long urged the authorities to route it through Hubballi so that it covers a larger part of Karnataka.

At present, there is only one dedicated train — Udyan Express — between Bengaluru and Mumbai. It runs via Guntakal and Kalaburagi, covering 1,136 km and serving mainly Andhra Pradesh.

The train takes 23 hours and 35 minutes from Bengaluru to Mumbai, and 21 hours and 50 minutes in the return direction. It always runs packed, and passengers have to book well in advance to get confirmed seats.

Bangalore Central MP, P C Mohan, said the train would likely originate from and terminate at SMVT in Bengaluru. In Mumbai, the train is likely to originate from and terminate at CSMT.

"Travel time will be 18 hours or less, on a par with bus journeys. It will have fewer stops, most likely at Tumakuru, Davangere, Hubballi and Belagavi within Karnataka," he told *DH*.

Although the Hubballi route spans 1,227 km — compared to the 1,136-km route via Guntakal — the railway authorities are confident that the 18-hour target can be achieved.

Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Divisional Railway Manager, Bengaluru, said a formal announcement was awaited and the originating station within the city was yet to be finalised.

"It may start from KSR Bengaluru, Yeshwantpur or even Bengaluru Cantonment," he told *DH*.

Singh also indicated plans for new dedicated services from Bengaluru to Delhi and Patna, noting the high patronage of special trains.

"We're been working to introduce more regular trains to meet this growing demand," he added.

Cong rule an 'eclispe' over state, Surya hits back at CM

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bangalore South BJP MP L S Tejasvi Surya said on Thursday that the Congress administration is an "eclipse" over the state.

Speaking to reporters, Surya said, "(Chief Minister) Siddaramaiah avare, your administration is the eclipse that has caught Karnataka. It's been around two-and-a-half years since you came to power. Because of potholes on Bengaluru's roads, people are experiencing hell. The potholes are proof of how good your administration has been."

Taking exception to Siddaramaiah's recent reference to him as "Amavasye" (new moon), Surya said: "Siddaramaiah is senior and is experienced, but he probably doesn't know the difference between new moon and full moon. The sun will be there on both days and will glitter on all 365 days of the year."

Continuing his tirade, Surya said, "The moon isn't visible on new moons. Being around people who worship the moon, you might have gotten confused, thinking there's no sun during the full moon or new moon. When the sun appears—whether it's a full moon, half moon, or otherwise—is not decided by us. Please make such statements in the future only after understanding the difference between the sun and the moon, and between the full moon and the new moon."

Home Minister G Parameshwara inspects 'peak caps' that will be distributed to the state police personnel on October 28. It will replace the decades-old slouch hats currently in use. An order to this effect was issued by DG&IGP M A Saleem on Thursday. DH FILE PHOTO

State police personnel to soon don navy-blue peak caps

BENGALURU, DHNS

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will distribute the newly approved "peak caps" to police personnel on October 28. An order to this effect was issued by DG&IGP M A Saleem on Thursday.

The police personnel in Karnataka will begin wearing these peak caps, replacing the decades-old slouch hats currently in use.

A formal peak cap announcement and distribution programme has been scheduled at the Banquet Hall, Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru, in the presence of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Home Minister G Parameshwara.

In a circular issued on Thursday, state police chief Dr M A Saleem instructed all commissionerates and districts to nominate one police constable (PC) or head constable (HC) to attend the event.

The government had, on August 6, issued an order replacing slouch hats with navy-blue peak caps for all constables and head constables across Karnataka.

At the recent senior police officers' annual conference, the police department had proposed green berets for the constabulary.

However, Siddaramaiah suggested blue peak caps, observing that green berets resembled those worn by home guards and members of Scouts and Guides.

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY

Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Greater Bengaluru Authority,
N R Square, Annexe Building - 3, Bengaluru

No: DCF/PR-181/2025-26 **Date: 23.10.2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the Citizens of Bengaluru that the DIGP, Group Centre, Central Reserve Police Force, Bengaluru has submitted an application and requested the Tree Officer/DCF, GBA for removal of trees standing at the Eastern and Western Side Camp for Construction of Proposed Peripheral Road. The details are given below:

Name of the project	Construction of Peripheral Road
Name of the Agency	Central Reserve Police Force, Bengaluru
Purpose for removal of trees	The trees are coming within the Project for Construction of Peripheral Road.

	Bou-ndary	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Location
Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS Coordinates	1	13°7800.55	77°3438.62	The trees are standing along the perimeter of the Eastern and Western Side Camp, inside the premises of the CRPF, Yelahanka, Bengaluru
	2	13°7130.55	77°3447.26	
	3	13°7190.12	77°3452.29	
	4	13°7350.26	77°3442.43	
	5	13°7190.12	77°3452.29	
	6	13°7350.26	77°3442.63	
	7	13°7340.34	77°3425.89	
	8	13°7300.53	77°3426.79	
	9	13°7300.34	77°3400.60	
	10	13°7325.29	77°3359.20	
	11	13°7130.68	77°3355.99	
	12	13°7600.68	77°3410.63	
	13	13°7100.67	77°3435.72	

Enumeration of trees • Total No. of trees standingin the project area	380 Nos (Annexure 1)	Description of Trees, Species, Location, Area, etc., are uploaded in the website of GBA for information of all **(www.bbmp.gov.in)**
Mode of communication of comments* *(Public can send their comments either by E-mail / Post / Hand)*	**Address:** a. The Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer, GBA, N.R. Sqaure, Bengaluru -02 **E-mail ID: dcfbbmp12@gmail.com** b. The DIC, GC, CRPF, Yelahanka, Bengaluru **E-mail ID: diggcblrbuildingbranch@gmail.com** # A Copy of the Comments communicated directly to DIG, GC, CRPF, should also be marked to the Tree-Officer/DCF, GBA	
Deadline for Filling Objections	Ten (10) days from the date of publication of this notification in Newspaper ***Objections/Comments/Suggestions should be relevant and specific to the project**	

In view of the above, the suggestions/objections/comments are invited from citizens under Section 8 (3) (vii) of the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act, 1976.

Sd/- Tree Officer
& Deputy Conservator of Forests, GBA Bengaluru

Dharmasthala SIT likely to submit report to court by weekend

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Special Investigation team (SIT) investigating the alleged Dharmasthala mass burial case is likely to submit its report to the court by end of this week.

Highly placed sources in the Home Department said the government has instructed the SIT chief not to delay the submission of the report in the case. It has been asked to complete the process quickly.

Already, the SIT team has shared a lot of information at the government level. Some materials collected during the investigation have been sent to the forensic science laboratory, and the report is expected shortly.

The final report will be prepared considering forensic inputs, the sources said.

A case was registered at Dharmasthala police station on July 4 based on a complaint by a man named Chinnayya, stating that he had buried hundreds of bodies.

Later, the complainant appeared before the Belthangady court and gave a detailed statement. He said he had buried hundreds of bodies. Subsequently, the government handed over the investigation to the SIT led by Pronab Mohanty.

The SIT, based on Chinnayya's statement, dup up the locations he pointed out and searched for skeletons. When no remains were found, suspicions rose against Chinnayya. The SIT arrested him on charges of perjury.

Based on the statement that hundreds of bodies were buried in Dharmasthala, records from the police station and gram panchayat were examined. Staff and retired personnel were interrogated.

Meanwhile, a certain group, sensing that the investigation has reached its final stage, has attempted to file a fresh complaint with the government to keep it alive. Complaints have also been submitted to the chief minister and several ministers stating that something has indeed happened in Dharmasthala and everything should come out.

DECCAN HERALD
ESTABLISHED 1948

Deporting scholars, stonewalling ideas

The deportation of Francesca Orsini, an eminent scholar of Hindi and South Asian literature, from the New Delhi airport on Monday was a misplaced assertion of authority, which shows India in a poor light. Orsini, a professor emerita at the University of London, is noted for her acclaimed book on the role of Hindi in national life during India's freedom struggle. She has a valid five-year tourist visa, but was denied entry because she had violated visa conditions during her previous visit by engaging in research activities. While her action, technically, may be a violation, it should not have attracted a humiliating deportation on entry. It must be noted that the government has not pursued extreme action on these lines against many visitors who commit similar violations.

Orsini is not the first foreign scholar with a valid visa to have been denied entry to India. In 2022, a British anthropologist, Filippo Osella, and an architecture professor, Lindsay Bremner, were deported on arrival. UK-based Indian academic Nitasha Kaul was deported from Bengaluru last year. The OCI card of another academic, Ashok Swain, was cancelled, but he secured relief from the court later. The government has restricted the entry of foreign scholars and insisted on clearance for their involvement in seminars and other academic activities. This is in line with the action against non-government organisations engaged in charitable activities or institutions that operate in academic spheres. The narrative projected in such cases is that the visitors are a threat to national interests. Research institutions such as the Centre for Policy Research (CPR) have faced government action. A global report on academic freedom this year placed India 156th among 179 countries.

Denial of entry over visa violations must also be seen in the context of a resistance to diverse ideas

These actions do not show the strength of a state but only expose its insecurity. They don't align with the claims of a Vishwaguru that nurtures ambitions of being a guide to the world. India has pitched itself as a country open to ideas from around the world. It can not lead the world by isolating itself from ideas. The Indian State and the country's culture are not so fragile as to be threatened by ideas from other lands and cultures. Engagement with diverse ideas, even critical perspectives, can only strengthen the country. Interactions with these views are necessary for it to remain lively and dynamic. India's culture and civilisation have survived because of its ability to absorb ideas. Many foreign intellectuals have done commendable work to enrich Indian languages and other areas of scholarship. They should be encouraged, not penalised.

At 20, RTI is a promise broken

As India's Right to Information (RTI) law completes 20 years, it has lost much of its potency and is facing an existential challenge. Hailed as a unique legislative measure that empowered citizens and sought to make governance transparent, the law has been rendered powerless through amendments by the government, efforts to stall its functioning, and a refusal to provide it with the necessary infrastructure and resources. A progressive, transformative legislation such as the RTI law, which aligned with the country's democratic system and the best principles of governance, should have been a cause for celebration on its 20th anniversary. Instead, it now presents an occasion to examine its failures and an uncertain future.

The picture is grim – the Central Information Commission is without a head, and has only two commissioners where there should be 11. Over four lakh cases are pending across the country. Six information commissions became defunct at the state level in the last year. Applicants continue to be denied responses to queries made under the law. Deadlines prescribed for the responses are not adhered to, and those who violate them are not penalised. There have been multiple cases involving officials getting away with incorrect responses. Citizens who seek information under the law continue to be attacked; scores of activists have been killed. A nexus formed among the officials, politicians, and vested interests has grown in strength, hindering the functioning of the law. These forces have also enjoyed the backing of governments that see the obstruction of information in their interest.

Weakened by amendments and institutional neglect, the transformative law now risks being irrelevant

The Supreme Court's directions towards corrective action have not yielded results. It has criticised the delay in official appointments and told the government to initiate timely action on the matter. But the situation remains unchanged. In 2019, the government assumed the powers to decide the salaries and service conditions of the Information Commissioners, making them virtually subordinate to the dispensation. When the Commission is stripped of powers to act independently, it stops serving the purpose it was created for. The Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 comes with provisions that curb the right to know under the RTI law, in the name of the right to privacy. The RTI was envisioned to deepen democracy by holding governments accountable for their actions. The shrinking and progressive neutralisation of this law is part of a larger pattern, where democratic institutions and the foundational ideas of transparency and openness in governance are being systematically undermined.

COLD WAR REDUX

US, China and a new power game in South Asia

The great powers are in a battle for primacy. India cannot afford entrapment, must prioritise strategic autonomy

SANJAY K BHARDWAJ

South Asia has once again become a scene of competition between major powers, similar to what was seen during the Cold War period. The region occupies a crucial space, which could be seen as a strategic battleground where several influences and interests intersect. With the internal contestations and State-specific rivalries, the region is not only a passive recipient of extra-regional power politics but also becomes actively involved in politico-strategic and maritime dynamics of these powers.

Global politics can be defined in terms of either 'lopsided multipolarity' or the emerging 'bipolarity'. The US is zealously defending the *status quo*, while China is bidding aggressively to dislodge the US from its predominant position as the singular hegemon and emerge either as a substitute or at least as an alternative to the US in global politics. This contestation is unfolding across the world in different geographies and different issues, and South Asia is no exception. Both powers employ various strategies that either serve their economic interests and extend influence in the region or create the potential for military or political advantages. The region is getting embroiled in a new race between Uncle Sam and the dragon.

On the one hand, the driving force behind China's approach in South Asia is defined by institutionalised economic persistence. The shift from overt balance-of-power politics to the systematic manoeuvring of trade and defence ties throughout the 1990s and 2000s led to a formalised set-up in 2013, as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). Beijing, aided by its vast capital reserves and compliant State-owned enterprises (SOEs), has been making deep inroads in the region, with clear geo-strategic objectives. It constructs economic corridors (CPEC and CMEC), roads, railways, ports, and pipelines to increase connectivity and access to the markets.

Beyond economics, the country has expanded its defence ties. Pakistan is the most visible example of a deep military relationship with China. As per Booz Allen Hamilton's 'String of Pearls' hypothesis, China is acquiring strategic presence at several ports in the region, such as Gwadar and Karachi (Pakistan), Hambantota and Colombo (Sri Lanka), Chittagong and Payra (Bangladesh), and Kyaukpyu (Myanmar). This has given China a broader footprint in the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal, and the Indian Ocean littoral. Beijing has methodologically strengthened its ties through a blend of high-level diplomacy and economic leveraging, though, resulting in a 'debt trap diplomacy'.

The US has noticed this and has charted out a plan to counter China's hold in the region. Its policy in South Asia has ranged from deep military to interventions towards leadership changes, to counter-balance

China's growing influence. Under the Trump administration, it has adopted a 'transactional foreign policy posture', in which foreign economic assistance is not just regarded as a soft-power tool, but rather as a geopolitical strategy to install favourable political dispensations across the region.

The US's 'war on terror' policy and subsequent withdrawal from Afghanistan had left a gap in the region that China could fill. The realisation of this possibility has prodded the US into efforts to reclaim the space. The US had anchored its Indo-Pacific strategy around India to limit Chinese ingress in the region. But it has realised the limitations of this strategy due to India's policy of non-interference.

When regimes change

The US and China have institutionalised foreign policy systems, while India's neighbours have personality-driven, elite-centric politics. Leadership transitions form a crucial part of this structure. In April 2022, Imran Khan was ousted from power for being too independent, pro-China, and pro-Russia. The Rajapaksa government, which also had a pro-China outlook, was toppled a month later. In August 2024, Sheikh Hasina was replaced by pro-US Muhammad Yunus, and, in September 2025, Nepal witnessed the overthrow of K P Oli's pro-Chinese Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) government. That all the toppled regimes had relatively pro-China positions tells a story.

The US also focuses on alternative financing in the region through institutions like Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), Development Finance Corporation (DFC), and Blue Dot Network, to counter China's growing footprint. In 2023, the US announced a $553 million project for a deep-water shipping container terminal in Sri Lanka. In 2025, the US also came into an agreement with Pakistan to lower tariffs and invest in its oil reserves and minerals.

The US's port-grabbing exercise is also aimed at increasing strategic depth in the region. It has made a joint military base with the UK on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, and is planning for Pasni (Pakistan) in the Arabian Sea, and 'Quad Ports for Future' in the Bay of Bengal. Washington also has regaining the Bagram airbase in Afghanistan as a top priority.

It can be argued that the ongoing strategic competition between the US and China in South Asia has irrevocably transformed the region into a battleground for a new Cold War. Thus, India has to hone its regional diplomacy for global gains. Apart from economic development and political stability, India's primary objectives are countering terrorism, curbing insurgency, and defying religious fundamentalism. All these internal security threats emanate from its neighbourhood and are supported by invisible, extra-regional powers.

The increasing US-China contestation in the region has impinged upon New Delhi's foreign policy choices. India must avoid entrapment in this great-power rivalry and play a delicate balancing act to safeguard against emerging security threats. It should also aim to promote a rule-based and just world order along with a free and open Indo-Pacific region. India has to align with the extra-regional powers in a way to protect its regional dominance and strategic autonomy, and ensure an inclusive, liberal, and democratic South Asia.

(The writer is a professor at the School of International Studies, JNU)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

Stories beyond statistics

From family squabbles to missing babies, the census offers moments that numbers can't capture

N RAMA RAO

People from all walks of life have unanimously welcomed the Centre's recent announcement that India will count its population by March 1, 2027, after an unprecedented 16-year gap. As an official who has been associated with censuses for decades -- both within and outside the country-- I have encountered some interesting and often hilarious situations during this mammoth exercise.

The very first question a census enumerator must ask in a household is the name of its head. In some households, the enumerator had to wait patiently—sometimes indefinitely—as the family debated whether the husband or the wife should be declared the head.

Semantics, too, can create amusing situations. A middle-aged man in a village once reported his marital status as "separated" in response to the question of whether he was single, married, widowed, divorced, or separated (not legally). When the enumerator learnt that the man's wife was merely away at her son's house in a neighbouring town, he ticked the entry 'married' -- with a wry smile.

Many men are reluctant to disclose the economic activities of their wives. The stock answer is often "She is only doing household work," even if she is engaged in farming or other gainful occupation. It is therefore no surprise that women remain under-counted in labour force statistics. One hopes this tendency will not persist in the 2027 Census.

During one enumeration, an observant enumerator noticed an infant in a cradle while wrapping up her interview. The mother had deliberately withheld information about her newborn baby, fearing the child might attract the 'evil eye'. The enumerator had to patiently explain that the word census, meaning full count, required the inclusion of even a one-day-old baby.

An interesting situation arose during the 1993 Census in The Gambia, a small West African country, which was held with my technical assistance. As polygamy was common there, a question arose: in which household should a man with three wives – each living in a separate house within the same compound-- be counted? It was decided that to avoid duplication, he would be enumerated in the household where he spends most of his time.

Unlike elections, which are conducted with great fanfare, the census count takes place quietly. Enumerators -- often local schoolteachers – visit every household within their allotted Enumeration Block. Occasionally, complaints arise about a household being omitted. But investigations often reveal that the enumerator did visit --only in the absence of the complainants.

Apart from the subtle humour they offer, these experiences remind us that a successful census depends as much on the cooperation of the public as on the diligence of the enumerators. One hopes that this spirit of partnership will shine through in the 2027 Census of India, which will mark two firsts – digitisation in data collection and enumeration of castes.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bluff and blackmail do not make diplomacy

US President Donald Trump has tread a new and dangerous path of diplomacy in his own style. His unilateral imposition of tariffs on imports according to his mercurial likes and dislikes has brought him unpopularity among several European countries, apart from Australia, Canada, Russia, China, and India. He appears to have misconceived that bluff and blackmail can bring him success in economic relations and in bringing peace. Some countries have subjugated themselves, but Russia, China, India, and several others are seething with anger at his imperious approach. Even American courts have taken note of his crossing the red line. Such use of economic power to impose his will on international relations and peace efforts will not bring him lasting success, as can be seen from the continuing escalations in the Middle East, even after the self-claimed successful talks in Cairo. Despite several sessions with Putin and Zelenskyy, talks are in a stalemate.
S V Venkatakrishnan, Bengaluru

Be cautious

The media have lately been full of cybercrime reports where people have been cheated or confined to digital house arrest and extorted for their release. Surprisingly, Bengaluru, the leading city in IT in the country, tops the list with the largest number of such crimes. The police are being blamed for failing to prevent and crack these crimes, and to recover the lost money. The point is that the police cannot do much in such crimes. These happen because of the ignorance of the victims, their gullibility, and finally, greed. The victims need to be more careful while dealing with suspicious telephone calls.
S Kamat, Mysuru

Tussle for CM post?

This refers to 'Father nearing end of political life: Now CM's son sparks buzz' (Oct 22). CM Siddaramaiah's son, Yathindra, an MLC, has given fodder for the rumour mill by stating that his father is nearing the end of his political life. This statement, taken in conjunction with Siddaramaiah's earlier statement that he would not contest the 2028 Assembly polls, suggests his retirement after completing his second term as CM. However, it is clear that there could be a tussle for the CM's post if the Congress returns to power.
C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

A nation is not just a piece of land. We can only be protected if national sentiment is aroused among people. The RSS is doing this work. Some people have the wrong opinion about this... The RSS does not care about prejudice...

C T Ravi, BJP leader

Every nationalist is capable of the most flagrant dishonesty, but he is also unshakeably certain of being in the right.

George Orwell

TO BE PRECISE

India's Silicon Valley debates the future

IN PERSPECTIVE

Kerala's poverty test: Absent or silent?

Milestones matter, but a mere statistical elimination of extreme poverty cannot address hidden vulnerabilities

K A SHAJI

On November 1, Kerala will step onto a stage of its own making, one that proclaims a moral victory few societies have ever attempted. The state will declare itself free of extreme poverty, the first in India to do so. A declaration described as historic will be read out with pride and political flourish, marking the culmination of decades of social reform, public investment, and a deep-rooted commitment to equality and dignity.

It is a moment Kerala has earned. Yet it is also a moment that demands pause. While extreme poverty may be statistically eliminated, vulnerability persists. It lives in the narrow alleys of coastal villages where the sea swallows homes each year, in the hills of Wayanad where landslides uproot families during every monsoon, and in the minds of jobless youth who see no future in their own land.

The claim rests on the Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP) launched in 2021. Through this initiative, officials identified over 64,000 families living without food security, safe shelter, or basic healthcare. Three years later, the government says that more than 93% have been rehabilitated and that some districts have achieved zero extreme poverty. The data suggests a success story built on years of planning and strong public participation.

This progress is possible because Kerala began from a different foundation. Universal literacy, free healthcare, women's cooperatives, and local self-governance have created a system of care unique in India. Poverty here is no longer chronic hunger or lack of education but the lingering exclusion of those left behind. The poor in Kerala today are the elderly living alone, landless tribal families in remote settlements and coastal households, displaced again and again by erosion.

Kerala has shown that governance, when local and empathetic, can transform lives. Each panchayat and ward committee has worked to identify and rehabilitate those in need. It reveals how collective responsibility can still change social reality. But poverty does not vanish when a survey is completed. It shifts shape with every new challenge. It is no longer a fixed condition but a recurring threat shaped by the economy, ecology, and the marketplace. A single medical emergency, a job loss, or a natural disaster can destroy years of stability.

Kerala's proudest achievements, its health and education systems, are now under pressure. Medical expenses and private schooling costs have become unbearable for many. What was once public wealth has turned into a private burden. Poverty in Kerala has not disappeared; it has become more silent, hidden beneath the respectability of survival.

The new vulnerabilities

Unemployment deepens this fragility. The state's educated youth, once its greatest asset, now find themselves excluded from both agriculture and industry. Many depend on migration to the Gulf or other states. Remittances sustain villages and families, but they also hide a truth: that Kerala's economy offers limited opportunities for its own people.

Climate change is adding a layer of risk. Across Kerala's coast, the sea continues to eat into homes and livelihoods. In the high ranges, repeated landslides have made thousands of people climate refugees, resettled far from their original communities. They may not fit the definition of extreme poverty, yet they live in constant dependence and anxiety. To declare victory over poverty without acknowledging the new vulnerabilities would weaken the very spirit that made Kerala different.

Kerala's greatest strength has been its ability to recognise its failures, to debate, to correct, and to rebuild. The state has always renewed itself through public argument, from the land reforms of the 1960s to the People's Plan of the 1990s to the recovery after the floods. That willingness to self-examine and self-correct is what gives its human development story credibility. It must not be lost now in the noise of celebration.

The November 1 declaration should be viewed not as the end of poverty but as a renewal of Kerala's social covenant. The next challenge is to prevent people from sliding back, to protect those whose lives are made uncertain by health costs, unemployment, and climate shocks.

Kerala has earned the right to celebrate. But even as it claims to have said no to extreme poverty, it must keep listening to those still living at the edges of survival: the migrant family on the eroding shore, the tribal mother in Attappady, the cancer survivor in Kochi's slums, the unemployed graduate waiting for a call letter. Their stories remind us that the battle is not over. The true triumph will come not when the state declares it, but when no one in Kerala has to fear falling back again.

(The writer is a South India-based journalist who has chronicled rural distress and environmental struggles)

Drowning in data gaps: Lack of reliable information imperils rivers' revival

KHUSHBU BIRAWAT

India's rivers are drying, polluted and poorly monitored. Yet policy and infrastructure decisions continue to rely on patchy, inaccessible data. River management remains reactive, not knowledge-driven. Strengthening India's data systems is no longer a luxury; it is an urgent governance necessity.

The Condition Assessment and Management Plan (CAMP), a national initiative under the Ministry of Jal Shakti's National River Conservation Directorate, offers a glimmer of change. It aims to prepare scientific, basin-level management plans for six major river basins: Cauvery, Godavari, Krishna, Mahanadi, Narmada, and Periyar. The programme brings together institutions such as IISc and several IITs/NITs to assess the present conditions and recommend interventions for river rejuvenation.

As the panel discussions and presentations progressed in the second meeting of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee (SAC) for the CAMP at the IISc, Bengaluru, there was a sense of optimism that government and academia were finally sitting together to discuss the state of India's rivers in a structured way.

The SAC-2 meeting revealed both the promise and the persistent paralysis in our water-governance ecosystem. "Lack of data" dominated the presentations—a familiar chorus in India's environmental dialogues. The senior official chairing the meeting emphasised using whatever data is available, coordinating with state departments to obtain missing datasets, and proceeding to actionable recommendations for the government.

All the research teams stressed the need to monitor rivers at higher frequency and finer spatial scales. Everyone agreed that robust data are the foundation for good river management. But how to overcome the institutional bottlenecks that make even existing data inaccessible or unreliable was not addressed.

One major takeaway was the inadequacy of our flow-monitoring network. The Central Water Commission (CWC) stations are simply too sparse to capture today's ground reality. For instance, there are only two discharge stations on the 172 km long Arkavathi River, which drains a 4,178 sq km catchment. Both are located near the downstream stretches, leaving the highly urbanised upper reaches (read Bengaluru's outflows) completely unmonitored. Without such information, designing sewage- or effluent-treatment plants becomes guesswork.

Where monitoring does exist, it often serves as compliance. Reports are filed and numbers recorded, but insights rarely feed back into planning. Take the National Water Monitoring Programme (NWMP), 2017 guidelines, which classify monitoring locations as Baseline, Trend, Flux (or Impact) and Hotspot stations, each to be monitored with defined parameters and frequencies.

In practice, this categorisation is absent. The State Pollution Control Boards continue to monitor and report water quality, assigning water bodies an A–E "designated best use" classification. Yet, the very basis of what the intended best use should be for each river stretch or lake is undefined, leaving the entire exercise floating without context.

Moreover, the current water quality standards for irrigation in India address only a narrow set of basic parameters. As India becomes a global hub for pharmaceutical and chemical manufacturing, our regulations and monitoring protocols must evolve, becoming far more comprehensive and stringent to detect and manage emerging contaminants that now flow freely in our rivers and aquifers.

Through the discussions, it was evident that most participants knew the familiar problems that ailed our rivers. Yet deep understanding demands knowing where, what kind, and why specific degradations occur. This spatial understanding is missing. We seldom map pollution sources or hydrological changes with sufficient resolution to see local patterns. Without that, we cannot define the problem precisely enough to design solutions. Spatially mapped, local-scale data would make an immediate difference.

Even when datasets exist, accessing them from government departments often involves prolonged correspondence and repeated visits. At the meeting, researchers were encouraged to obtain data by physically visiting departmental offices and waiting until officials released the information.

One individual who managed to secure such data was lauded as the "data man", and his persistence was cited as a model for others. Yet this highlights a systemic problem. Experts are forced to expend months pursuing essential data that should already be publicly accessible.

If such datasets were open-source and standardised, we could move faster from: data—>diagnosis—>decision —>implementation —>monitoring —> learning.

Transparent data is not just a technical need; it is a democratic necessity. When information about rivers is public, citizens can engage, question and contribute. Our national scientific temperament grows when ordinary people can see, interpret and debate the same evidence that experts and officials rely on. Access to shared data transforms people from subjects to citizens. It builds accountability because decisions can then be verified, not just announced.

CAMP represents a hopeful shift, an attempt to weave science into river-governance decisions. But its success will depend on how courageously institutions confront their own information deficits. Data are infrastructure; without them, every intervention is speculative.

If we can make data accessible, reliable and transparent, our rivers stand a chance of revival, and our governance, a chance of reform.

(The writer is a researcher and curator at Paani Earth Foundation, Bengaluru)

The protests that rocked Nepal were about more than a social media ban. The economy is so dire that for many, going abroad seems the only way to build a future

DH ILLUSTRATION: DEEPAK HARICHANDAN

Nepal's Gen Z sees little hope at home

ANUPREETA DAS

In his hometown, Chamkhar, a tiny village of breathtaking beauty tucked into the hillside about an hour away from Nepal's capital, Rajendra Tamang sits plotting his future.

The golden fields of corn, verdant slopes and imposing views of Himalayan peaks hold little opportunity. Neither does the rest of Nepal, Tamang, 22, said. Jobs are scarce and competition is fierce, even for low-paying work. Wealth disparity is high and corruption is endemic.

Two years ago, Tamang moved to Dubai, where he worked 16-hour days, six days a week, switching between jobs as an office peon, a cleaner and a warehouse worker. He earned four times the salary he could expect in Nepal, but the gruelling shifts wore him down. As he browsed Dubai's malls on his days off, he noticed that baristas and secretaries were in demand.

Adding such skills to his resume could increase his employability, Tamang reasoned. So he came home and enrolled in a two-month barista training course in Nepal. He learned how to operate a coffee machine, the difference between a cold brew and an iced coffee, and how to draw pretty patterns in cappuccino foam. He is hoping that his skills will distinguish him from the tens of thousands of Nepalis who are also looking for jobs overseas.

"I just don't want to work in Nepal," Tamang said. "You have to get out."

Sick of corruption

In tiny hamlets and passport lines, on the streets and inside chic cafés, many young Nepalis — whether they are college graduates or never finished school — say they feel hopeless and frustrated.

Persistently high unemployment and inadequate investment in skills training have hurt economic growth. The country relies heavily on remittances sent home by citizens working abroad, which equal about a third of Nepal's gross domestic product. At the same time, many Nepalis say they experience corruption in their everyday dealings with bureaucracy, and an entrenched elite is widely seen as having reaped ill-gotten gains.

Those feelings morphed into rage in early September, when thousands of students took to the streets to vent their anger at corruption, in what came to be known as the Gen Z protests. The immediate trigger was a social media ban — which coincided with a viral surge of memes targeting "nepo kids," the privileged children of the elite. The protests spiralled into a nationwide arson rampage and led to the downfall of Nepal's government.

"The Gen Z protest was a necessary movement for change," said Lal Bahadur Ghising, 32, a cabdriver who spent two years working in Malaysia and used his savings to buy a taxi, which he now drives full time. "Bribery is rampant."

Nepal is one of Asia's most corrupt countries, according to Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index, which measures how corrupt a country's public sector is perceived to be.

Pressure to leave

Five days after the student protests, as the capital, Kathmandu, returned to calm, the Department of Passports was bustling as usual. Hundreds of people clutching documents stood in a line that grew by the minute, sloping into the building's pitch-black basement parking lot. Most were young, and many were applying for their first passports.

Sunita Bishwakarma, 29, had arrived at 9 am, an hour before the office opened. Bishwakarma, who is unemployed, has no immediate plans to go abroad but said her brother, who works as a security guard in Kuwait, had urged her to apply for her passport.

"If you go abroad, at least it's a better place," Bishwakarma said he told her. Bishwakarma said she would rather raise her three boys in Nepal, but the recent turmoil and the overall state of the economy gave her little hope. "It forces us to leave," she said.

Grim statistics about the economy abound. In 2023, the Nepal Living Standards Survey found that nearly a quarter of Nepalis between the ages of 15 and 24 were unemployed, almost double the rate of the overall population. The number of Nepalis working abroad almost tripled, to 2.2 million, in the two decades leading to 2021, according to government data. Roughly three-quarters of Nepali emigrants were between the ages of 15 and 34.

Agriculture remains the lifeblood of Nepal's economy, but in towns and cities, the internet has opened up new opportunities. Ride-hailing apps have helped cabdrivers find more customers. People have found digital marketing jobs. Local businesses are growing through their online presence.

A labour mill

Nepal, with a population of about 30 million, provides a steady supply of unskilled labour to Gulf countries, but also to European ones such as Portugal and Greece. Young Nepalis pack boxes in warehouses, chop vegetables in restaurant kitchens and drive trucks at construction sites.

Roughly 1 in 4 households in Nepal has a family member abroad, according to government data. For families, that often means a cruel trade-off between the grief of separation for years at a time and the need for money. The remittances sustain households, pay school fees and medical bills, and help to rebuild homes in a country prone to natural disasters like floods and earthquakes.

"To save, or even live properly, someone from the family has to go out," said Tenzin Dolker, a college student in Kathmandu who studies computer science. "It's almost like an unsaid tradition."

Nearly two decades ago, when Dolker was 6 years old, her mother left Nepal to work as a caretaker in Israel. She stayed for 15 years, returning to visit just three times, Dolker said.

But "she earned money in Israel and built her house here," Dolker said. Her mother, who is now back for good, could never have saved that much working in Nepal, she said.

The 'nepo kids'

With more than 1 million Instagram followers, Shrinkhala Khatiwada, a former Miss Nepal and a Harvard University graduate, was an inspiration for many Nepali youngsters. She spoke eloquently — often about politics — and became a prominent voice of her generation.

Her accomplishments put Nepal "in the limelight," said Prijma Limbu, who lives in London but was visiting family in Kathmandu. She follows young Nepali influencers to keep up with trends in the country of her birth. "I was like, she's really nice — intelligent, smart, very inspiring to a lot of people," Limbu, 21, said.

But in the days leading up to the Gen Z protests, Khatiwada was targeted as a "nepo kid" for taking foreign vacations and endorsing luxury brands. She lost many of her Instagram followers. Khatiwada's father is a former health minister, and her husband's father owns Nepal's biggest media conglomerate.

Limbu said Khatiwada was a "disappointment" for not supporting the protesters. "Because people looked up to her so much, people were expecting that she would do something about it, post something about it, and she didn't," Limbu said. Homes belonging to relatives of Khatiwada were among those burned during the protests. Khatiwada said in an interview that she had wanted to promote the protesters' cause, but that she was shocked "at being painted as its enemy."

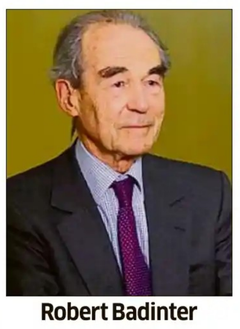
"My silence was not born of privilege or indifference; it came from trauma and shock," she said. Asked whether she had benefited from tainted money, she said, "I never gained from ill-gotten gains."

The New York Times

Robert Badinter and France's moral awakening

SUMIT PAUL

Robert Badinter, the lawyer and former justice minister who led France to abolish the death penalty, was inducted into the Panthéon in Paris recently – 44 years to the day after the abolition law took effect. Badinter often said that while he had always opposed the capital punishment, it was injustice in court that transformed his belief into a lifelong mission.



Robert Badinter

He defended Roger Bontems, a prisoner involved in a hostage-taking incident in which another man committed the killings. Although the jury accepted that Bontems had not killed anyone, he was still sent to the guillotine in 1972.

"I saw, in the name of justice, a man cut in pieces – because that is what the guillotine really means – without ever having killed anyone," Badinter told Radio France Internale in 2005. "There was no blood on his hands. I could not accept this idea of justice. Justice cannot kill. From that moment on, I became an activist."

Five years later, Badinter defended Patrick Henry, who had been convicted of murdering a seven-year-old boy. His powerful plea during the trial helped spare Henry's life and turned the case into a defining moment in France's national debate on capital punishment.

It is startling to recall that an advanced country such as France still guillotined its convicts as recently as the 1970s. The last execution by guillotine in France took place on September 10, 1977, when Hamida Djandoubi was executed. Djandoubi, a Tunisian man, was convicted of kidnapping, torturing, and murdering Élisabeth Bousquet. His execution was the last in the Western world by guillotine, preceding France's formal abolition of capital punishment in 1981.

Across the Western world, most nations have long abolished capital punishment. England did away with it in 1965, after a wrongful execution drew public outrage. Only a few states in the United States continue to retain it. Several Arab and Islamic nations continue to enforce capital punishment, often carrying out executions in public, underscoring the stark differences in how societies conceive justice.

The death penalty is fundamentally derived from vengeance rather than justice. Capital punishment is defended as serving a just retribution for heinous crimes. But at its core, it actually perpetuates a cycle of violence and revenge, disregarding the opportunity for understanding, rehabilitation, and the potential for redemption. A justice system that chooses retribution over rehabilitation risks losing its moral anchor. A deeper examination of alternative forms of punishment that prioritise fairness and humanity is imperative in a civilised society.

The greatest injustice occurs when the legal system meant to protect the innocent fails. When the very system that is meant to uphold fairness and protect those who are wrongly accused fails to do so, it not only inflicts grave harm upon the innocent but also erodes public trust and calls into question the entire legal process. This echoes the need for addressing and rectifying such flaws within the legal system, not irreversible punishment.

Capital punishment has, at times, been reduced to a grim public spectacle -- a reflection of society's darker fascination for violence. Executing a helpless person, however legally justified, remains a troubling act that tests our collective conscience. This is the irony which helps perpetuate the gory saga of hangings and judicial occurrences of gas-chambering. Sending a convict to the gallows is galling.

Every human being is worth more than the worst thing they have ever done. Every human being is worth more than the worst thing they have ever done. The profound moral question is not whether a convict deserves to die, but whether society deserves to kill. Furthermore, the death penalty perpetuates a cycle of violence and revenge. In taking a life, even in the name of justice, we risk diminishing our own humanity.

(The author is a Pune-based independent writer and columnist)

OUR PAGES OF HISTORY

50 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 1975

Bonus ordinance not against workers, says PM

New Delhi, October 23
Prime Minister Indira Gandhi has reiterated her view that "the bonus ordinance is not against the interest of the workers." In an interview with the Editor of the Communist Central News Service, yesterday, she said, "We are convinced that had the payment of bonus continued without reference to production, productivity or surplus it would have had an adverse effect on workers as well as others." There was also a hint in her reply that the same considerations might apply to dearness allowance or higher wages.

25 YEARS AGO: OCTOBER 2000

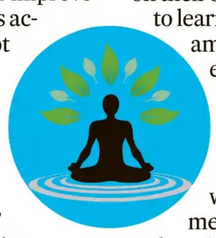
George rules out ceasefire with J&K militants

Srinagar, Oct 23 (DHNS & PTI)
Union Defence Minister George Fernandes today ruled out the possibility of the Centre announcing any unilateral ceasefire in the campaign against militants in Kashmir. He, however, endorsed the statement of the Army chief that Kashmir "needs a political rather than a military solution." Talking to reporters here today after the inauguration of a "Buyer- Seller Meeting" at the SKICC, he said there was no immediate threat from Pakistan or China, though violence at the LoC in the state "is waxing and waning".

OASIS | SUDHA DEVI NAYAK

Walking the path of wisdom

Wisdom is of the ages and comes with living life through its myriad vicissitudes. It is not a gift *gratis*, an inheritance or legacy to be passed on or a genetic skill that we acquire naturally. The trauma and joys of life simultaneously teach us wisdom that comes through judgement and discrimination. Wisdom is not merely the acquisition of knowledge but a refinement of knowledge, the distilled wisdom that we apply as the situation demands. It is the collective experience we gather as we go along that informs our decisions and influences our values and ways .



Wisdom is the ability to retain your equanimity regardless of circumstances realising fully that not everything is in your control, to change or improve what you can and a gracious acceptance of what you cannot and understanding the difference between them. It is basically a search for meaning and knowledge and the essence of being human. A large part of wisdom is '*Saha hrudayata*' or empathy that shared feeling of humanity. The quality of being wise is recourse to the soundest course of action based on knowledge, experience and understanding. The wisest among us are those who carry their greatness, learning and virtue lightly on their shoulders and are not averse to learning from the humblest among us. They believe that everyone has the power to add value to our lives and every encounter should be treasured because it may not come again. Also true wisdom does not try to seek meaning and significance where there is none but living life with hope and courage. Often life brings tragedies and suffering in it's wake as well as immeasurable joys but wisdom gleans resilience from it all and the knowledge everything will pass.

The greatest teaching of wisdom comes from the Bhagavadgita where Krishna tells Arjuna that he must take arms against his kin in the resolution between good and evil. Wisdom is the ability to discern between right and wrong, to make a choice when confronted with difficult and varied possibilities and live life with equanimity and peace.

Wisdom is about considered choices and understanding our limitations in the backdrop of ambitious goals. Above all wisdom means tolerance, a commitment to listen to other voices, a humility that elevates a human being.

Nationwide SIR to roll out soon in phases

Exercise may take place in Assam, TN, Puducherry, Kerala, Bengal by November

ROLL REVISION

- SIR likely to be held in more than one phase
- To be conducted in poll-bound states first
- Karnataka, Kerala demanded exercise be held after local-body polls
- Poll body yet to respond to the demand

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Election Commission (EC) is all set to announce the schedule for a nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls soon, an exercise being held after two decades and following the recent one in Bihar.

The SIR is likely to be held in more than one phase, with the five poll-bound states and Union Territories (UTs) — Assam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, and West Bengal — likely to witness it during the first phase, along with some other states.

The EC interacted one-on-one with the chief electoral officers (CEOs) of poll-bound Assam, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, and West Bengal. Indications are that the SIR may take place in poll-bound states as early as November.

Sources said the EC told the CEOs that the schedule would be decided in a meeting of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

States like Kerala and Karnataka earlier demanded that the SIR be held only after the conclusion of their local-body elections. Sources said the EC did not directly respond to the demands but told the CEOs that a decision would be communicated to them when the poll body made it.

The EC held a two-day review meeting with the CEOs here, which concluded on Thursday, during which the preparedness for conducting the SIR was reviewed.

It was held as a follow-up to the one on September 10, during which states and UTs delivered presentations on the number of voters, the qualifying date of the last SIR, and electoral rolls as per the last-completed SIR.

On Wednesday, the EC assessed the progress made by states on mapping the current electors with voters as per the last SIR.

The mapping is expected to help states' poll bodies find voters who were on the electoral roll after the last SIR and continue to be in the latest voter list.

The CEC on Thursday directed the CEOs to finalise their preparations for the SIR in their respective states and UTs. At the meeting, the EC answered queries raised by the CEOs.

Govt clears Rs 79,000-cr weapons deal for defence upgrade

Procurement of amphibious warfare ships, Nag missiles to boost military capabilities

BOOST TO INDIA'S WAR CHEST

- Defence Acquisition Council okays major tri-service weapon and hardware upgrades.
- 4 LPDs, new torpedoes, and naval guns to enhance amphibious and maritime operations.
- Nag missile system, ELINT units, and mobility vehicles approved for stronger ground power.
- New long-range autonomous strike system (CLRTS/DS) to boost air combat reach.
- Most systems indigenously developed under Aatmanirbhar Bharat drive.

NEW DELHI, PTI

India on Thursday cleared proposals to procure weapons and military hardware worth Rs 79,000 crore, including Nag missiles, amphibious warfare ships and electronic intelligence and surveillance systems, to boost the combat capabilities of the military.

The procurement proposals were cleared at a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

It is the second major decision on procurement following Operation Sindoor.

The DAC approved various proposals amounting to a total cost of about Rs 79,000 crore, the defence ministry said.

For the Indian Navy, approval was granted for the procurement of Landing Platform Docks (LPDs), 30-mm Naval Surface Guns (NSGs), Advanced LightWeight Torpedoes (ALWTs), the Electro Optical Infra-Red Search and Track System and Smart Ammunition for 76-mm Super Rapid Gun Mount.

The ministry said the integrated sea capability provided by LPDs will also help the Navy undertake peacekeeping operations, humanitarian assistance, disaster-relief measures etc.

For the Indian Army, approval was accorded for the procurement of the Nag missile system (Tracked) Mk-II (NAMIS), the ground-based mobile ELINT (electronic intelligence system) and high-mobility vehicles (HMVs).

The procurement of the NAMIS will enhance the Army's capability of neutralising the enemy's combat vehicles, bunkers and other field fortifications, whereas the GBMES will provide round-the-clock electronic intelligence of enemy activities, the ministry said in a statement.

The DAC approved the procurement of Collaborative Long Range Target Saturation/Destruction System (CLRTS/DS) for the Indian Air Force.

Congress, PDP to support ruling NC in J&K Rajya Sabha polls

SRINAGAR, DHNS: In a rare show of Opposition unity, the Congress and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) on Thursday announced their support for the National Conference (NC) candidates in Friday's Rajya Sabha elections from Jammu and Kashmir — a move aimed at keeping the BJP out and preserving the fragile I.N.D.I.A bloc in the Union Territory.

The poll is for four seats in the Upper House, and the NC is guaranteed victory in at least three of them, given its numbers in the J&K Assembly.

"Having taken into account our own sensitivities as a suffering state and as a steadfast secular party, we have decided to keep all differences with the NC aside to prove our commitment to our ethos," said J&K Congress president Tariq Hamid Karra.

PDP chief and former chief minister Mehbooba Mufti also confirmed her party's backing for the NC nominees, while clarifying that it would not support the NC for the fourth seat.

Kerala cop faces heat over post on Prez's Sabarimala visit

ARJUN RAGHUNATH
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS

A senior police officer in Kerala has landed in trouble for a social media post criticising the restrictions imposed at the Sabarimala Ayyappa temple during President Droupadi Murmu's darshan on Wednesday.

R Manoj Kumar, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Alathur (Palakkad district), shared the controversial message as his WhatsApp status. The post drew attention, prompting the Palakkad district police chief to seek an explanation.

Kumar is learnt to have told authorities that the message was a forwarded post he had accidentally set as his status, and that he removed it as soon as he realised the error.

The social media post criticised the restrictions imposed on pilgrims and the special privileges extended to President Murmu. It pointed out that despite clear directives against VIP treatment and vehicular access on the pilgrimage trek, these norms were flouted by the President and her security personnel. Neither the Sangh Parivar nor the Congress had raised any protest over the breach of these 'customs', said the message that was later withdrawn.

Police and fire personnel try to push President Droupadi Murmu's helicopter after it got stuck on the helipad in Pathanamthitta, Kerala, on Wednesday. PTI

Helipad trouble

The Congress alleged a serious security lapse during the President's visit to Pathanamthitta, after her helicopter got stuck in a helipad that had reportedly been constructed just hours before her arrival.

Pathanamthitta MP Anto Antony criticised the police for failing to prepare an alternative travel plan in advance. He also claimed that even stray dogs were seen approaching the helicopter.

Videos and photos of police, and fire and rescue personnel attempting to push the chopper out of the soft concrete have since gone viral.

The helipads were constructed overnight after poor weather conditions made helicopter operations to Nilakkal near Sabarimala unfeasible. As the concrete hadn't fully cured, the helicopter sank slightly upon landing.

State police chief Ravada Chandrasekhar denied allegations of a security lapse. He said that the helicopter had landed slightly off the designated spot and hence, it had to be pushed.

Telangana cow-vigilante injured in firing; BJP demands answers

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

A firing incident involving a cow vigilante and a member of the Gau Raksha Dal has sparked political tensions in Telangana.

Prashanth Singh, also known as Sonu Singh, a resident of Ghatkesar, reportedly received information from a friend about cattle smuggling in a truck and intercepted it on Wednesday night.

Cattle-transporter Ibrahim allegedly shot Sonu with a country-made pistol, injuring him on the right side of the chest, and fled the scene with his accomplices.

Sonu underwent surgery, and a bullet was retrieved from his body. His condition was stable. Police said that three of the four accused were apprehended on Thursday.

The arrested have been identified as Ibrahim Qureshi, the main accused; Kuruva Srinivas, who "arranged" the meeting on Wednesday night, and Hassanbin Mosin, a cattle-trader. Another accused, named Mohammed Haneef, is currently absconding.

"We found the accused and victim had been in regular contact since July and met multiple times," said Rachakonda Commissioner of Police (CP) G Sudheer Babu.

The police said this was a case of the cattle-transporter retaliating against Sonu for allegedly causing an estimated loss of Rs 1 crore by intercepting his vehicles.

BJP workers led by the party's state chief attempted to lay siege to the DGP Office but were taken into custody.

Delhi: Artificial rain likely on Oct 29

NEW DELHI, PTI: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday said the city is set to witness its first-ever artificial rain through cloud seeding as preparations for the ambitious pollution-control initiative have been completed.

A successful trial of the project was conducted earlier in the day in the Burari area, Gupta said in a post on X.

"According to the weather department, cloudy conditions are expected on October 28, 29, and 30. If the weather remains favourable, Delhi is likely to witness its first artificial rain on October 29," her post read.

Three more organisations seek nod for rallies in Chittapur

KALABURAGI, DHNS: Three more organisations have submitted applications to the district administration seeking permission to organise a procession and protests in Chittapur on November 2.

With this, a total of six organisations have sought permission, including Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) which has already been permitted to hold a route march by the high court on that day.

Gonda-Kuruba ST Horata Samiti submitted a memorandum on Wednesday, while Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene and Indian Christian Welfare Association sought permission on Thursday.

"It has been 11 years since the state government submitted a plea to the Centre to include the Kuruba community, a synonym for Gonda, in the ST category. Therefore, we are planning to hold a protest march in Chittapur to condemn the delay part of the Centre to accord the ST tag", their leaders stated.

The district unit of the Indian Christian Welfare Association has approached the administration requesting permission to hold a Prayer Walk on November 2 for peace and coexistence.

The farmer organisations sought permission to organise a procession, accusing the Centre of meting out injustice to Karnataka in the distribution of compensation to the farmers affected by rain and floods. The RSS, Bhima Army and Bharatiya Dalit Panther have already submitted pleas to hold processions in Chittapur on November 2.

Mysuru farmhouse raided, four held for sex-determination test

Govt officials take part in a decoy operation

MYSURU, DHNS

The Varuna police have arrested four persons, including a woman, on charges of conducting sex determination tests, at a farmhouse in Hunaganahalli Hundi village of T Narsipur taluk in Mysuru district, in a decoy operation. Search is on to nab three more suspects.

The Health and Family Welfare department officials kept a vigil for over two months following a tip-off that sex determination tests were being conducted at villages near Bannur Road in Mysuru taluk.

On Wednesday morning, they conducted a raid on a farmhouse and arrested four people, including a pregnant woman. Two of the arrested are spouses of the pregnant women, who were waiting for the tests.

Police have registered cases against Swamy, Govindaraju, Shyamali, Karthik of Mysuru, Harish Nayaka of Bherya village, KR Nagar taluk, Shivakumar and Puttaraju of K Salundi, Mysuru taluk. A scanning machine and some cash have been seized from the spot.

According to Mysuru District Health Officer Dr P C Kumaraswamy, a team of officials of the department had been to the location, along with a woman, on the pretext of getting a test done and found out that sex determination tests were being conducted at the farmhouse.

The farmhouse, where sex determination tests were conducted at Hunaganahalli Hundi, in T Narsipur taluk, Mysuru district. DH PHOTO

The team comprised Health and Family Welfare department Deputy Director Vivek Dorai, Mandya DHO Dr Mohan Kumar, Family Welfare Officer Dr Bettaswamy, Radiologist Vijayasarathi, Anil P Thomas, N Arun Kumar, B Mangala and Puttasiddamma.

A case has been registered under the Preconception and Prenatal Diagnostic Techniques (PCPNDT) Act, Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act, and Karnataka Private Medical Establishment (KPME) Act, according to a press release from the DHO.

It may be mentioned that Mandya Police have arrested 36 people so far, in connection with the sex determination and female foeticide cases that were reported in Mandya district in 2023 and 2024.

Metro tender bad 'ad' for transparency?

Metro, from Page 1

Questions have also been raised over tender norms. In what appears to be a clear sign to exclude competition, 30 marks have been assigned for a presentation made before BMRCL officials, a process bidders call subjective and open to manipulation. Secondly, past experience in displaying advertisements on metro pillars — which should have been an eligibility criterion — has instead been included under the technical criteria with additional score points. Sources said this was done to inflate the combined score of a particular bidder.

"BMRCL will be the loser," said a representative of an advertising firm. "By virtue of a high technical score, a bidder may get selected even if others have offered to pay more," the person said, adding that the experience of handling metro-pillar advertisements should not have been the only criterion since such ads were banned in Bengaluru for seven years.

Advertising is a major contributor to Namma Metro's non-fare revenue, helping the utility raise funds as it expands its network and clears loans. While the move was long overdue, Namma Metro could lose about Rs 25 crore annually and over Rs 375 crore in the next 15 years.

Some of the advertisers also alleged that the tender conditions were designed to keep local players out.

"All existing and future metro corridors have been clubbed into a single package. Plus, the contract period is too long. Given these factors, the technical conditions should have been more competitive," they said, noting there will be little or no competition in the market to provide such a display of advertisements across the city.

BMRCL managing director J Ravishankar was not available for comment.

Oil effect? PM to skip...

Modi-Trump, from Page 1

"Had a warm conversation with my dear friend, Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim of Malaysia. Congratulated him on Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship and conveyed best wishes for the success of the upcoming summits," Modi posted on X on Thursday after speaking to his counterpart in Kuala Lumpur.

"Look forward to joining the ASEAN-India Summit virtually, and to further deepening the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership," he added, ruling out the possibility of his travelling to Malaysia.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will represent Modi at the East Asia Summit, which will also be held in Kuala Lumpur around the same time

The PM's social media post came just a few hours after Trump reiterated in Washington on Wednesday his claim about receiving an assurance from Modi about India cutting down on its oil imports from Russia.

"India, as you know, has told me they are going to stop...it's a process. You can't just stop (buying oil from Russia). By the end of the year, they'll be down to almost nothing," Trump told journalists at the White House. He was replying to a question on curbing Russia's oil exports to pressure it to agree to a ceasefire with Ukraine.

"India, they've been great. Spoke to Prime Minister Modi yesterday. They've been absolutely great."

Trump has, over the past few days, repeatedly claimed to have received an assurance from Modi about India slashing oil imports from Russia.

This began on October 15, when he had said that the prime minister had assured him that India would cut down its oil imports from Russia. New Delhi stated that Modi and Trump had not spoken over the phone that day.

The US president reiterated the claim aboard the Air Force One on Sunday, and then again on Tuesday and Wednesday.

CM's son projects Jarkiholi as political heir to his father

Jarkiholi, from Page 1

Speaking to reporters in Belagavi, even Sathish reiterated that his ambitions were for 2028. "I have said that my claim is for 2028. The final decision should be made by the party. Everything cannot be decided today. There are still 30 months left."

A source in the know told *DH* that Yathindra's comments were not coincidental, but rather a well-thought-out decision. "Since he (Yathindra) is making a statement and dropping a name for the first time, it seems like the Siddaramaiah camp has got some message from the High Command regarding leadership change," the source added.

While Siddaramaiah's loyalists have been reiterating that he will remain in power for a full five-year term for a while, those close to Shivakumar feel the alleged power struggle mandates two-and-a-half years for both (30 months each). This fuelled speculations that there would be a change of guard in November. However, by pitching a new name for the CM post for the first time, Yathindra has opened doors for new political possibilities.

Why Satish?

Satish Jarkiholi has been a staunch Siddaramaiah loyalist for over two decades. When Siddaramaiah was expelled from the JD(S), Satish joined him and has since been with him. The 63-year-old politician hails from the Nayaka (ST community) and has grown in Siddaramaiah's mould of AHINDA (Kannada acronym for minorities, backward classes and Dalits) politics. Ever since the Congress came to power in the state, he has time and again brandished his loyalty to the chief minister.

Secondly, the PWD minister — like Siddaramaiah — is ideologically committed to secular principles and is a rationalist. On December 06, 2014, Satish and a few hundred of his followers visited a crematorium in Belagavi to observe the death anniversary of Dr B R Ambedkar. During the 2018 Assembly elections, Satish filed his nomination papers during the 'Raahukala' (considered 'inauspicious' by the conservatives).

ST reservation angle

Currently, the demands to add the Kuruba community to the ST list have been opposed by the Nayaka community, which feels its reservation share will be reduced. By projecting Satish as his ideological successor, Siddaramaiah — the preeminent Kuruba leader — could be trying to assuage the Nayaka community, an important part of his larger AHINDA support base. Satish is also the only ST minister in the Cabinet (B Nagendra and KN Rajanna were sacked earlier).

Tejashwi will be CM face...

Tejashwi, from Page 1

"We have made it clear who will be our CM face," said Gehlot.

"Amit Shah should also make it clear whether the NDA will appoint Nitish (Kumar) as the CM or not if they are voted to power," added Gehlot, taking a jibe at Shah, who recently said in Patna that the elected MLAs will elect the new CM of Bihar.

"Amit Shah has virtually made it clear that this could be Nitish's last term as the chief minister. Nitish's own selected aides, in cahoots with the BJP, are hell-bent on finishing the JD(U) in the name of Nitish 'poor health'," said Tejashwi, who assailed the saffron camp in no uncertain terms, but remained soft towards Nitish, hoping against hope that his 'Chacha' may do a somersault post elections, if needed.

"The voters have given Nitishji 20 years. I am saying give me at least 20 months to govern. We will build a new Bihar where students will not have to go outside the state for higher studies nor youths in search of jobs. We will give employment to each member of a family who doesn't have a government job, hike Jeevika Didis' salary to Rs 30,000, waive interest on their loan, ensure insurance of Rs 5 lakh for each of them, give free electricity to all up to 200 units and a gas cylinder at the rate of Rs 500. This will be besides the Maa-Behan Yojna, where a woman will be entitled to Rs 2,500 per month as cash incentive," said Tejashwi.

"We have a clear vision for Bihar but the NDA is busy slamming us instead of sharing their own vision," said Tejashwi, who assured of a joint campaign of the RJD, Congress, Left and the VIP from October 24.

The first phase of election in Bihar is slated for November 6 while the second and last phase is on November 11. Counting of votes will take place on November 14.

IN NUMBERS

7.43 crore

Bihar has 7.43 crore eligible voters, including around 3.92 crore men, 3.50 crore women, and 1,725 transgender persons. Voters also include about 14.01 lakh first time voters (18-19 age group).

COUNTER

"You (Tejashwi) talk about corruption, which story do you believe in? The story of your father, your mother, or yours? About 3.5 acres of land along Bailey Road in Patna was transferred to Lalu's family. Tejashwi is an accused under Section 420 of the IPC, and he is questioning others on corruption. Lalu has been convicted in 4 cases of fodder scam.

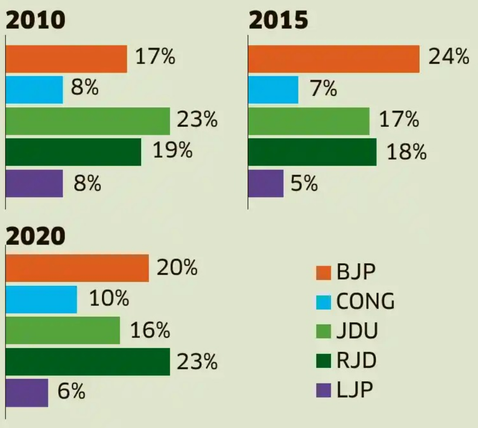
Ravi Shankar Prasad
BJP Lok Sabha MP

V/S

Dalits and the extremely backward classes would vote for the INDIA bloc only because of Rahul Gandhi. His image should have been there. Alliance partners like Bhattacharya should also have been in the poster."

Pappu Yadav
Independent MP

BIHAR ASSEMBLY VOTE SHARE



Poll diary

Nitish accuses Tejashwi of misleading women

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday took a veiled swipe at RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, accusing him of misleading women with "hollow promises" about Jeevika self-help groups. His remarks came after Yadav promised government status and higher pay for Jeevika workers.

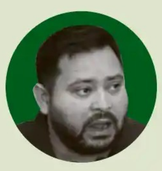
Protest seeks removal of AICC Bihar in-charge

Disgruntled Congress leaders in Bihar staged a protest on Thursday demanding immediate replacement, with "a political person", of AICC Bihar in-charge Krishna Allavaru whom they accused of being a "corporate agent" and "sleeper cell of the RSS". They staged a dharna at Sadaqat Ashram, the BPCC headquarters.

Two of I.N.D.I.A bloc withdraw candidature

Two nominees of the I.N.D.I.A bloc on Thursday withdrew their candidature from Assembly seats in Nawada and Madhubani districts. While Congress' Satish Kumar withdrew his candidature from Warsaliganj in Nawada, Bindu Gulab Yadav of the VIP withdrew her nomination from Madhubani 's Babubarhi.

CONSTITUENCY WATCH



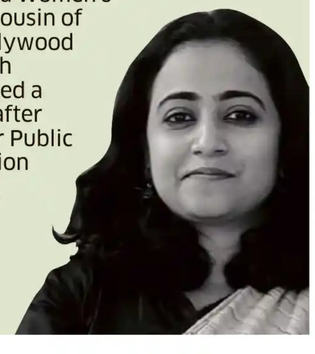
TEJASHWI YADAV
RJD
2020: Won

SATISH KUMAR YADAV
BJP
2020: Lost

MEET THE CANDIDATE

Divya Gautam
Party: **CPI(ML) Liberation**
Constituency: **Digha**

Divya Gautam is CPI(ML) Liberation, an I.N.D.I.A bloc constituent, candidate from the Digha assembly seat in Patna district. She started her political career with the All India Students' Association (AISA), the students' wing of CPI(ML) Liberation. She contested the 2012 Patna University Students' Union election as an AISA candidate but lost by a narrow margin. Gautam holds a bachelor's degree in mass communication and did her masters from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences TISS, Mumbai. She has worked as an assistant professor at Patna Women's College. She is a cousin of the deceased Bollywood star Sushant Singh Rajput and declined a government job after clearing the Bihar Public Service Commission Examination. She is pitted against BJP's Sanjeev Chaurasiya, who has held the seat since 2015.



Rs 2L pitch: Wooing women, one cash transfer at a time

Opposition slams cash transfer scheme as official bribe to lure voters

FROM THE GROUND

GYANENDRA KESHRI
MUZAFFARPUR (BIHAR), DHNS

In Baijnathpur village under the Bochaha Assembly constituency of Bihar's Muzaffarpur district, Rani Devi runs a modest tailoring shop from her home. She recently received Rs 10,000 in her bank account under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana and hopes to receive another Rs 2 lakh after the state elections conclude by mid-November.

"Right now I'm operating from home, but I want to open a new shop. Once I get Rs 2 lakh, I will," said the 39-year-old.

In Patiasa village under the Minapur constituency, 46-year-old Sunita Devi plans to buy cows to expand her dairy business.

"I've received Rs 10,000 in my account. I'll vote for the person who gave this money," said Nilu Devi, another woman in her mid-forties from Patiasa.

Days before the announcement of the election schedule, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's government transferred Rs 10,000 each to the bank accounts of one crore women in Bihar.

WALLET TO BALLOT

- Women at the heart of Bihar's election campaign
- Nitish govt has transferred Rs 10k each to 1 crore women
- Scheme to help JD(U)'s prospects amid buzz on Nitish's health
- RJD-led alliance pledges Rs 30k monthly for Jeevika mobilisers

The scheme was launched on September 26, with the first tranche reaching 75 lakh beneficiaries. On October 3, another 25 lakh women received the amount, taking the total to one crore.

The direct benefit transfer (DBT) under the scheme was also made on October 6 and 17, with more transfers expected on October 24. The total number of beneficiaries is set to reach 1.25 crore, costing the exchequer Rs 12,500 crore.

Amid speculation about his mental health and facing strong anti-incumbency after nearly two decades in power, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar appears to be banking on women voters, his most consistent support base.

Schemes such as free bicycles for female students, prohibition on alcohol and reservations in jobs and local elections have helped Nitish build trust among women, who make up 48% of Bihar's electorate.

Opposition leaders, including Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav and Jan Suraaj founder Prashant Kishor, have slammed the recent cash transfer scheme as an "official bribe" to sway voters.

Under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana, Rs 10,000 has been transferred as an initial grant to eligible women. The Nitish-led NDA government has promised additional financial support of up to Rs 2 lakh for those who successfully use the grant to start a business or generate employment.

"One woman from every family will definitely benefit from this scheme," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said while launching it on September 26.

The scheme will be implemented through Self Help Groups (SHGs), locally known as Jeevika samuh.

Opposition's promises

It's not just Nitish, other parties are also courting women voters to gain ground in the Bihar polls. The Mahagathbandhan (Grand Alliance), comprising the RJD, Congress and Left parties, has promised Rs 2,500 in monthly financial assistance to eligible women under the 'Mai Bahin Maan Yojana'.

Led by RJD's Tejashwi Yadav, the alliance has also pledged a monthly salary of Rs 30,000 for community mobilisers. Women-centric schemes, particularly cash transfers, have delivered electoral gains for the BJP in states like Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. The alliance is hoping for similar dividends in Bihar.

I.N.D.I.A bloc reboots Bihar strategy with unified front

Preps for NDA face-off as alliance rallies behind Tejashwi, warms up to Sahani

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, CPI-ML General Secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya (C) and VIP chief Mukesh Sahani (L) during a press conference in Patna on Tuesday. PTI

The I.N.D.I.A bloc expects that the Congress shedding its reluctance to name Tejashwi Yadav as the chief ministerial face, and the RJD overcoming its reservations about VIP to accept Mukesh Sahani as a deputy chief minister, will help bring the alliance back on track in the Bihar poll campaign.

It believes that a public display of unity, with a message to various castes and communities that there will be more deputy chief ministers, combined with the entry of new allies like the India Inclusive Party, could help bridge the narrow vote gap of around 12,700 votes against the NDA in 2020.

The bloc also hopes to move past the recent acrimony over seat-sharing negotiations with the announcement of a joint press conference, following the release of its Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs) agenda on September 24.

The anointment of Sahani, who belongs to the Nishad community, also marks the growing political assertion of Bihar's Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs). These communities hold the balance of power between Lalu Yadav's Muslim-Yadav combine and the BJP-JD(U) alliance, backed by Kurmis and upper castes. It is also a manifestation of the most backward communities, who have lagged behind the dominant OBC castes, seeking not just proportional or fair representation but leadership positions in the power structure.

BIHAR VOTES

Nishad, Kevat, Mallah and Bind are part of the same caste groups in the EBC category that are associated with river and water bodies-based occupation.

The joint appearance of alliance leaders, their first since the election schedule was announced, came despite unresolved seat-sharing tensions. With 'friendly fights' expected in around 10 constituencies, leaders downplayed the discord, saying 1-2% such contests are normal.

The run-up to the announcement saw senior Congress negotiator Ashok Gehlot firefighting with the RJD leadership, as the grand old party shed its reluctance to officially name the "obvious choice" for CM face, sending a message to its cadre to let bygones be bygones.

The delay in naming Tejashwi was due to the Congress playing hardball, with even Rahul Gandhi refusing to publicly endorse the RJD scion as CM face, despite Tejashwi's strong backing of Rahul as the most suitable candidate for prime minister.

Gehlot downplayed talk of one-upmanship, saying the Congress was never in doubt about the CM face and instead questioned why the NDA had yet to name one.

Along with the CM face, the I.N.D.I.A bloc also projected Mukesh Sahani as a Deputy CM face, aiming to consolidate support from the Nishad community, comprising around 4.3% of the population. The RJD, which was wary of Sahani due to his exit from the alliance in 2020, reversed its stance.

The Vikassheel Insan Party (VIP), which had initially demanded 60 seats but settled for 15, was reportedly on the verge of quitting the alliance until Rahul intervened.

The press meet also offered a glimpse into the I.N.D.I.A bloc's line of attack on the NDA, with Tejashwi claiming he had a "vision with undying passion for taking Bihar forward". He launched an attack on the JD(U)'s future and Nitish's relevance, alleging that the BJP is scripting JD(U)'s downfall.

'Don't forget jungle raj': Modi to cadre

NEW DELHI, DHNS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday urged young BJP workers in Bihar to remind the state's youth of the RJD's 'jungle raj' era.

"Gather all the young people at every booth and have the elderly recount stories from the jungle raj," Modi said, addressing booth-level workers virtually during the 'Mera Booth Sabse Mazboot' programme.

He also asked the BJP youth workers to connect with first-time voters of Bihar and tell them about the power of their vote.

Training his guns at the RJD-Congress tie-up on a day Tejashwi Yadav was declared the Mahagathbandhan's chief ministerial candidate, Modi said the Opposition alliance is not a "gathbandhan" but a "lathbandhan" (a coalition of criminals) as all its leaders from Delhi and Bihar are out on bail.

Meanwhile, BJP president JP Nadda held rallies in Aurangabad and Hajipur, describing the Bihar elections as a contest between the NDA's 'vikas' (development) and the I.N.D.I.A bloc's 'vinash' (destruction).

"The hallmark of the Congress is that it is a parasitic party that finishes off its junior alliance partners," Nadda said. He added that the RJD, led by Lalu Prasad, is a party known for its 'Rangdari' (extortion), 'Jungle raj' (lawlessness) and 'Dadagiri' (bullying).

Nadda dismissed Tejashwi's promises of employment generation and curbing migration as hollow. "This is the same party that was involved in the land-for-jobs scam," he said. "The RJD should explain where the funds will come from to pay salaries if they plan to give jobs to every family, as promised."

He also criticised the RJD for fielding Osama Shahab, son of gangster-politician Shahabuddin, from the Raghunathpur constituency. "How can the RJD ensure the safety of Bihar's people with such candidates?"

He said that, in contrast, CM Nitish Kumar had eliminated 'jungle raj' in Bihar over the past two decades. "This election is a battle between vikas and vinash," Nadda said.

(With PTI inputs)

People walk by decorations as part of voter awareness campaign at the illuminated Digha Ghat in Patna. PTI

Jan Suraaj chief Prashant Kishor

Projection of Tejashwi as CM face of I.N.D.I.A bloc 'no big deal': PK

SIWAN, PTI: Jan Suraaj Party founder Prashant Kishor on Thursday claimed that the projection of RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav as the chief ministerial candidate will not sway public mood in favour of the I.N.D.I.A bloc in poll-bound Bihar.

Talking to reporters in Siwan, Kishor also said Yadav's promises like government employee status to contractual workers and a hike in renumeration, ring hollow.

"It was always known that if (RJD president) Lalu ji's jungle raj were to return in Bihar, Tejashwi Yadav would be chief minister. Therefore, the announcement is no big deal," Kishor said.

He also made light of the announcement that former state minister Mukesh Sahni, who heads the Vikassheel Insan Party and belongs to an extremely backward class, would be a deputy CM.

"It is a sign of desperation. When power seems out of reach, you may promise to make as many deputy CMs as possible. But, this is not going to cut ice with the posters. Jan Suraaj will form the next government in Bihar," he said.

Modi's election blitz begins today

ABHAY KUMAR
PATNA

With the battlelines clearly drawn between the NDA and the I.N.D.I.A bloc in Bihar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will launch the BJP's election campaign on Friday from Samastipur.

Notably, Modi, who has visited Bihar 55 times in the last 11 years, will kickstart the campaign from the birthplace of Bharat Ratna Karpoori Thakur, who was the chief minister of Bihar in the 1970s, and was awarded the highest civilian honour this year.

Incidentally, Karpoori's son, Ramnath Thakur, is a JD(U) Rajya Sabha member and currently the Union Minister of State for Agriculture in the Modi government.

Ironically, the PM will be canvassing against Karpoori's granddaughter, Dr Jagriti Thakur, who has been fielded as the nominee of Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj from Morwa in Samastipur.

"Modi will first pay tributes to Karpoori Thakur at Karpoori Gram, the birthplace of the former CM, and then address a rally in Samastipur as well as Begusarai on Friday," said Bihar BJP president Dilip Jaiswal.

'NO CONFUSION'

Nitish will be CM if NDA returns to power: Nitin Navin

The NDA has agreed to contest the Bihar Assembly elections under the leadership of Nitish Kumar. However, uncertainty persists over whether the JD(U) chief will be made chief minister again if the numbers favour the BJP. Union Home Minister Amit Shah's recent remarks have only added fuel to the speculation. Bihar Road Construction Minister and senior BJP leader **Nitin Navin**, however, insists there is no ambiguity over the CM face. In an interview with *DH*'s **Gyanendra Keshri**, Navin also outlined the roadmap for developing roads, bridges, and other infrastructure in Bihar. Edited excerpts:

There is talk about Nitish Kumar's leadership, but no clarity on the CM face. Why the confusion?

There is no confusion. It's very clear, we are contesting the 2025 election under Nitish Kumar's leadership. When we have accepted his leadership, where is the confusion? Both the Bihar BJP and the central leadership have conveyed this message very clearly.

Will Nitish be CM even if the numbers favour the BJP?

Absolutely. We have said it clearly: 2025-2030 will be a Nitish Kumar government. There is no confusion at any stage.

How do you see the impact of Prashant Kishor in this election?

The person who once made big claims has now fled the battlefield. When a party's leadership backs out, what can its workers do? He has accepted defeat.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav has promised one government job for every household. How feasible is this, and what impact could it have on the election?

There are around 23 lakh government jobs in Bihar. For this, we need a budget of Rs 3 lakh crore. There are at least two crore families in the state. For one crore jobs, you need a budget of at least Rs 12 lakh crore. There is no clarity on what proportion the jobs will be created and where? For the RJD, it's not a job promise, but a land grab plan. We won't let people be fooled again.

What will be the key focus of the NDA if voted back to power?

In the next five years, the biggest challenge will be investment. The three basic issues for investments are road, law and order and electricity. We have reached a certain level of progress on all three fronts. Every district in the state has 24x7 electricity. There is a huge improvement in law and order and road infrastructure. During 2025-30, Bihar will be known for investments.

There have been several incidents of bridge collapses. What is the plan to address this?

Almost every district in Bihar has a river flowing through it, and the state has a large number of small and big bridges. While new bridges have been constructed on a large scale, maintenance remains a key challenge. Our focus now is on ensuring proper upkeep. The Cabinet has already approved a new policy for the management and maintenance of bridges. We will introduce digital health cards for all bridges and deploy advanced technologies, including AI, for effective monitoring and maintenance.

Match-fixing case: SC allows BCCI to assist in Karnataka's plea

The high court had quashed criminal proceedings against six accused in 2022

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The BCCI has sought to intervene in a pending plea filed by the Karnataka government in the Supreme Court against the high court's 2022 order, which quashed criminal proceedings against six accused in a case of alleged match-fixing.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi on October 16 allowed the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) to assist the court and sought a counter affidavit from the respondents within four weeks.

The court also sought an affidavit from the Union government by giving it the last opportunity. The top court scheduled the matter for hearing on November 27.

LEGAL BATTLE

- The cricket body seeks criminalisation of match-fixing
- 2 players, a team owner, a bookie, a coach, a KSCA member were accused of match-fixing in the Karnataka Premier League in 2018 and 2019

Maintaining that it is a necessary and proper party in the special leave petition, the BCCI contended that the act of match-fixing clearly constituted an offence of cheating.

The match-fixing attracted all the elements of cheating, i.e., deception, fraudulent or dishonest inducement, and intentional inducement to do or omit anything causing damage or harm. Therefore, the accused can be charged with the offence of cheating under Section 415 read with Section 417 of the IPC, it argued.

The HC, in its January 2022 order, had quashed the cheating case in respect of match-fixing charges against the accused in the FIR lodged with Cubbon Park police station in Bengaluru.

Two players, the owner of a team, a person in charge of a team, a bookie, a coach and a member of the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) were named as accused under Sections 420 and 120 B of the IPC for match-fixing in several matches of the Karnataka Premier League in 2018 and 2019.

The BCCI claimed the accused, by concealing their prior arrangements of match-fixing between themselves, with a dishonest intention, induced the spectators to spend money to buy tickets and the sponsors to invest money in the teams and KPL.

62-year-old Pocso accused dies by suicide in police custody

HYDERABAD, DHNS: A 62-year-old man accused in a case registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (Pocso) Act for allegedly attempting to rape a minor girl, has reportedly died by suicide while in police custody in Andhra Pradesh's Tuni.

Tatika Narayana Rao allegedly jumped into a canal near Komati Cheruvu on the outskirts of Tuni in the Kakinada district around 10.30 pm on Wednesday.

The police said he was being taken to be produced before a magistrate when he requested a toilet break. As the police vehicle stopped, he suddenly jumped into the canal, they said. His body was recovered on Thursday morning.

Rao allegedly lured and sexually assaulted a 13-year-old schoolgirl from Tuni, belonging to a government Gurukul school, by posing as her grandfather. He was reportedly beaten by locals before the police took him into custody.

The girl and her mother gave their statements, and a case was registered under the Pocso Act on Wednesday.

"Rao was arrested last evening in connection with an attempted rape case involving a minor girl," said Tuni Circle Inspector (CI) Chennakesava Rao on Thursday.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

Assam govt to table Nellie massacre report in Assembly

SUMIR KARMAKAR
GUWAHATI, DHNS

More than four decades after the massacre of "immigrant" Muslims at Nellie in Assam, the BJP-led government in the state on Thursday decided to table the Tewary Commission inquiry report in the Assembly in November, months before the state goes for polls.

More than 3,000 people allegedly died in the massacre in central Assam's Nagaon district on February 19, 1983, amid the Assam Agitation or the anti-foreigners movement (1979-1985). There is, however, no official figure on the death toll.

The Congress government, with Hiteswar Saikia as the chief minister, established the commission, headed by IAS officer T P Tewary, in 1983. Its report was submitted to the government in 1985.

Announcing a Cabinet decision on Thursday evening, current CM Himanta Biswa Sarma told reporters that it was decided to table the report in the Assembly to allow the new generation to know the situation under which the massacre took place.

"Previous governments did not make the report public as Tewary's signature was not in it, raising questions about its genuineness. There are only three copies of the report with the government now. We spoke to the clerical staff who worked with the commission, and even conducted forensic analyses. We are now convinced that the report is genuine," he said.

Assam agitation

The Assam Agitation was spearheaded by the All Assam Students' Union and the All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad after the Central government decided to conduct the Assembly elections in 1983 despite the detection of a large number of suspected foreigners in the electoral rolls. The agitators demanded that the electoral rolls be reviewed before the polls.

The six-year agitation, which also witnessed the deaths of 856 people belonging to indigenous communities, culminated in the Assam Accord of 1985 during the tenure of Rajiv Gandhi as the prime minister.

Bihar's 'Sigma & Company' wiped out in Delhi encounter

NEW DELHI, PTI: Four members of the self-styled 'Sigma & Company' gang, who were killed in a police encounter here, had not only publicised their killings on social media earlier but also circulated notes to local journalists, justifying their actions, officials said.

The accused, identified as gang leader Ranjan Pathak (25), Bimlesh Mahto alias Bimlesh Sahni (25), Manish Pathak (33) and Aman Thakur (21), were gunned down in a shootout with a joint team of the Delhi Police Crime Branch and Bihar Police in Rohini in the early hours of Thursday, police said.

Ranjan, who carried a cash reward of Rs 50,000 and was described as a 'dreaded criminal', had been linked to at least five criminal cases in the past three months, including the sensational murder of former Brahmarshi Sena district chief Ram Manohar Sharma alias Ganesh Sharma (40) in Sitamarhi district on September 26, officials said.

Following Sharma's murder, the gang issued a note on social media and circulated it among local journalists, a senior police officer said.

The note, written in bold capitals, bore the title 'Sigma & Company' with the tagline "Nyay, Seva, Sahyog" (Justice, Service, Support). The gang listed eight alleged "crimes" of Sharma, describing him as a betrayer, treacherous, a dictator, a dishonest thief, immoral, a great sinner, and arrogant.

The gang claimed there were 'many other reasons' behind the killing that they could not reveal and insisted that their fight was not against any caste or community but against corrupt police officers and the oppression of the poor and weak by authorities.

MISCELLANY

◆ COMICS ◆

Blondie

I THINK WE SHOULD TAKE A BREAK FROM THIS LITTLE ARGUMENT WE'RE HAVING
YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT, HONEY
THAT WILL GIVE YOU TIME TO SEE THAT I'M RIGHT
WELL, NOW OUR LITTLE ARGUMENT FEELS MORE LIKE A NOT-SO-LITTLE ARGUMENT!

Hagar The Horrible

HAGAR, YOU HAVE COMMITTED HEINOUS CRIMES AGAINST THE CROWN!
THEN WHY AM I NOT IN THE DUNGEON?
WE JUST SPENT A FORTUNE FUMIGATING IT!

Beetle Bailey

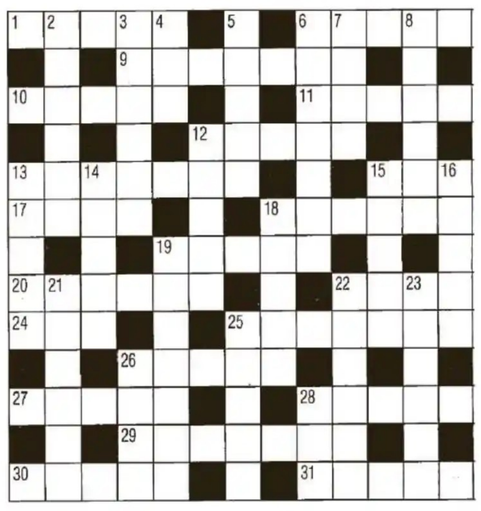
WHO'S THAT?
MY BROTHER, CHIGGER. HE WANTS TO BE A SOLDIER JUST LIKE ME.
THE ARMY DOESN'T NEED ANOTHER YOU. TELL HIM TO JOIN THE NAVY.

Peanuts

I'M ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT THAT LITTLE RED HAIRED GIRL, BUT I KNOW SHE DOESN'T THINK OF ME
SHE DOESN'T THINK OF ME BECAUSE I'M A NOTHING, AND YOU CAN'T THINK OF NOTHING!
YOU'RE NOT REALLY A NOTHING, CHARLIE BROWN
ALMOST
DOES A GIRL EVER GO AROUND THINKING OF A .00001 ?!

Marvin

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 12273



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 Experimental new trail (5)
6 Leonard Nimoy looking eerie? (5)
9 Aggressive enough for marital disaster (7)
10 Food for the days of youth (5)
11 Wed a woman who's out to be a bit of a worry? (5)
12 Satisfied that it's very soft in the hay (5)
13 Bogey man? (7)
15 You can shoot one, blow it! (3)
17 On paper, an admission of ignorance (4)
18 He might glare wildly at a dunderhead (6)
19 Moves to make the coffee go round (5)
20 Grab a car part (6)
22 Just a piece of wire to me (4)
24 Burger ingredient! (3)
25 Conditionally released to take part in protection (7)
26 Handle with generosity (5)
27 Sag like a broken door needing a bit of paint (5)
28 The vessel a bachelor's in (5)
29 In command, he's vague (7)
30 Half a mile in the car free of jams (5)
31 High-speed checkers (5)

DOWN
2 Cause to argue? (6)
3 Female deadlier than the male (6)
4 Stable type? (3)
5 Take the wrong way (5)
6 Specimens current in a less unusual case (7)
7 Work is fun! (4)
8 Mount a camel outright! (6)
12 Erica's land (5)
13 One well held, sir? (5)
14 A professional stand-in (5)
15 Group of people in a plane crash! (5)
16 More in VAT (5)
18 Hugely distinguished (5)
19 Go and break a scraper (7)
21 Hardy associate (6)
22 Spirits of the chap with more about him (6)
23 Wild area in foreign parts (6)
25 Trimmed some of the drapes, possibly (5)
26 To reduce the gas, you need a mantle (4)
28 Extra decoration in a pub (3)

ACROSS
1 Aids in crime (5)
6 Famous puppet (5)
9 Bean (7)
10 Commence (5)
11 US farm (5)
12 Roost (5)
13 Scolded (7)
15 Digit (3)
17 Dry (4)
18 Mooring device (6)
19 Weight (5)
20 Occurrences (6)
22 Champion (4)
24 Speck (3)
25 Bereaved man (7)
26 Insurgent (5)
27 Weird (5)
28 Flower (5)
29 Surprise (7)
30 Burnt remains (5)
31 Borders (5)

DOWN
2 Improve (6)
3 Fibre (6)
4 Was seated (3)
5 Charged (5)
6 Pig-like (7)
7 US state (4)
8 Bird (6)
12 Hides (5)
13 Revealed (5)
14 Metal fastener (5)
15 Tossed (5)
16 Mistake (5)
18 Smith's block (5)
19 Roads (7)
21 A, E, I, O and U (6)
22 Accommodated (6)
23 Draw back (6)
25 Tired (5)
26 Get up (4)
28 Beer (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12272

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Ex-Moor 7, Orator-IO 8, Lena 10, Pa-ined 11, Armada 14, Kew 16, N-UK-ed 17, (R-)Ever(-ed) 19, Real-m 21, Tally 22, Range 23, Cuts 26, Sa-p-id 28, Cos 29, P-lumps 30, Love-ly 31, A-Wed 32, (w-)Reckless 33, Tithes.
DOWN: 1, Elapse 2, Opener 3, Road 4, Sternly 5, Freak 6, Nomad 8, L-Ike 9, New 12, Mum 13, D-elft 15, H-Elga 18, Vi-t-al 19, Ran 20, Ale 21, Tad-pole 22, R-I'm 23, C-over-t. 24, US-Ed 25, Saye-r-s 26, Spark 27, Punch 28, C-ow 30, Last.

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Pauses 7, Transfer 8, Cede 10, Pile up 11, Tureen 14, Ape 16, Lorry 17, Espy 19, Befit 21, Colin 22, Rayon 23, Tree 26, Motor 28, She 29, Adhere 30, Eureka 31, Leak 32, As good as 33, Exhale.
DOWN: 1, Purple 2, Sleepy 3, Step 4, Insulin 5, After 6, Briny 8, Clap 9, Due 12, Rot 13, Erode 15, Below 18, Synod 19, Boy 20, Fin 21, Carrion 22, Roe 23, Thrash 24, Reek 25, Enable 26, Macaw 27, Thugs 28, Sue 30, Else.

◆SU-DO-KU-6733◆

	9		4		2		1	8
		1	9			6		
			1			3	4	
						8	6	
1				9				4
	8	5						
	5	3			9			
		8			3	9		
6	1		7		4		5	

hard

SOLUTION TO 6732

6	9	5	3	2	1	4	8	7
7	8	3	9	6	4	5	2	1
4	2	1	7	5	8	9	3	6
5	6	4	2	1	7	8	9	3
2	7	8	6	3	9	1	4	5
3	1	9	4	8	5	6	7	2
1	4	7	5	9	3	2	6	8
8	3	6	1	4	2	7	5	9
9	5	2	8	7	6	3	1	4

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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E1 M3 P3 D2 R1 E1 E1 — 4th Letter Triple — RACK 1
I1 E1 S1 M3 T1 L1 G2 — RACK 2
U1 A1 T1 M3 R1 T1 S1 — Double Word Score — RACK 3
E1 O1 O1 H4 S1 T1 S1 — Triple Word Score — RACK 4

PAR SCORE 145-155
by JUDD
FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

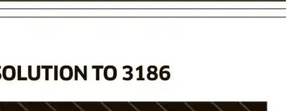
R1 I1 T1 U1 A1 L1 S1 — RACK 1 = 57
P3 R1 O1 D2 U1 C3 T1 — RACK 2 = 86
P3 R1 O1 M3 S1 — RACK 3 = 12
D2 E1 G2 A1 U1 S1 S1 — RACK 4 = 68
PAR SCORE 145-155 — JUDD'S TOTAL 223

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VOERH
LAUMB
OTMTOA
CIDTNU


Stop! Thief!
Hey! Squeak! Squeakity, squeak, squeak!
Not funny! I don't tell on you!
4/15
THE MOUSE WAS SPOTTED STEALING SOME CHEESE BECAUSE HIS COUSIN ---

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CARGO TRUTH HAGGLE DIVINE
Answer: With the family barber shop now in his hands, he was carrying on his — "HAIR-ITAGE"

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HITORI-3187

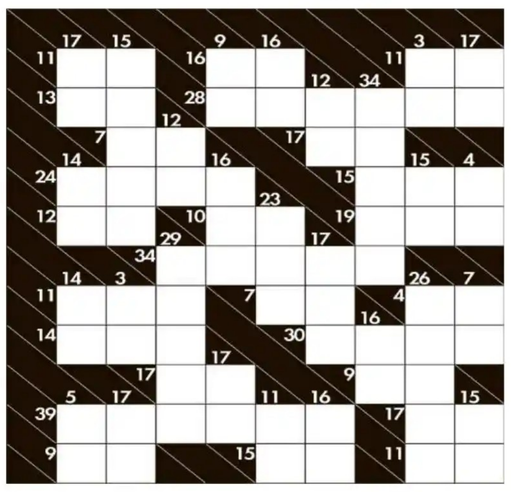
8	8	8	1	8	5	3	7
8	4	2	7	1	8	6	5
5	1	4	3	8	4	5	7
3	8	1	8	6	7	7	4
8	7	6	4	7	8	5	8
1	7	7	7	4	3	2	8
7	3	4	6	2	7	8	7
8	5	7	2	8	7	4	6

SOLUTION TO 3186

■	4	■	6	7	■	8	5
1	6	7	■	4	3	5	■
7	■	5	1	■	8	2	3
3	5	■	7	2	4	■	8
2	1	6	■	8	5	4	■
8	7	1	5	■	6	■	4
6	■	8	■	3	2	1	7
4	8	■	3	5	■	6	■

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3187



SOLUTION TO 3186

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3714

■								■
	■			7	2		■	
	1	5				■		
7			■		■			4
	5	9	3	6	4			8
1			■		■		9	
	3	■	1			■		
	■			2			■	
■					7			9

SOLUTION TO 3713

9	8	7	5	4	3	1	2	6
1	6	4	9	2	7	3	8	5
2	3	5	8	6	1	9	4	7
4	7	3	2	9	5	6	1	8
8	5	1	3	7	6	4	9	2
6	2	9	1	8	4	5	7	3
7	1	2	6	3	9	8	5	4
5	4	6	7	1	8	2	3	9
3	9	8	4	5	2	7	6	1

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Trump pardons Binance co-founder Changpeng Zhao

WASHINGTON, AFP: US President Donald Trump has pardoned the convicted Binance co-founder Changpeng "CZ" Zhao, the White House said on Thursday, accusing Trump's predecessor Joe Biden of launching an unnecessary "war" against the industry.

Zhao Changpeng

Binance was created in 2017, and swiftly became the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange by volume, turning Zhao into a billionaire. Following an investigation into the firm's operations, Zhao pleaded guilty to violating US anti-money-laundering laws in late 2023 and served a four-month prison sentence for it in 2024.

Zhao's pardon wipes his criminal record and could help pave the way for Binance to return to the US, two years after it agreed to suspend its American operations in a deal to resolve the Department of Justice's criminal investigation.

"In their desire to punish the cryptocurrency industry, the Biden Administration pursued Mr Zhao despite no allegations of fraud or identifiable victims," the White House said. Binance has spent almost a year pursuing a pardon for Zhao, the Wall Street Journal reported.

Democrats were quick to criticise Trump's decision to pardon Zhao. "CZ pleaded guilty to a criminal money laundering charge and was sentenced to prison. But then he financed President Trump's stablecoin and lobbied for a pardon. Today, he got it," Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren wrote in a post on X.

Since his presidential campaign, Trump has become a defender and promoter of the cryptocurrency sector, reversing his past criticism.

Russia will never bow to US pressure, says Putin

New US sanctions could lift oil prices, says Russian leader

MOSCOW, REUTERS

President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Moscow would never bow to pressure from the United States or any other foreign power, and cautioned that it would deliver an "overwhelming" response to any military strikes deep inside Russia.

US President Donald Trump on Wednesday hit Russia's two biggest oil companies with sanctions in a sharp policy shift on Moscow's war in Ukraine, prompting global oil prices to rise by nearly 5% on Thursday and India to consider cutting Russian imports.

Putin told reporters that US and Western sanctions were an "unfriendly" act and "will have certain consequences, but they will not significantly affect our economic well-being". Russia's energy sector feels confident, he said.

"This is, of course, an attempt to put pressure on Russia," Putin added. "But no self-respecting country and no self-respecting people ever decide anything under pressure."

Putin, after joking with reporters about how sanctions might prevent the West importing Russian toilets, recalled that Trump during his first term imposed tough sanctions on Russia.

He warned that disrupting exports from Russia — the world's second-largest oil exporter — would lead to a sharp rise in the price of oil, including at US gas stations. This could be politically uncomfortable for Washington, he said.

While the extent of the financial hit on Russia may be limited in the short term, the new sanctions are a powerful signal of Trump's intent to squeeze its finances and try to force the Kremlin towards a peace deal, though it is still unclear if India will actually cease buying Russian crude.

Trump said during the US election campaign that he would swiftly end the Ukraine war, which his administration has cast as a "proxy war" between Washington and Moscow. After leaning heavily on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, he has recently expressed disappointment and frustration with Putin.

Trump, who has described Russia as a "paper tiger", said on Wednesday he had cancelled a planned summit with Putin. The US Treasury slapped sanctions on two of Russia's biggest oil companies.

Putin said that the summit and venue — Budapest — had been proposed by Trump.

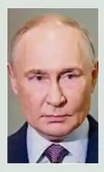
"What can I say? Dialogue is always better than some kind of confrontation, than some kind of dispute or, even more so, war," Putin said.

Asked about a Wall Street Journal report that the Trump administration has lifted a key restriction on Ukraine's use of some long-range missiles provided by Western allies, and remarks by Zelenskyy about domestic missiles with a range of 3,000 km (1,900 miles), Putin said: "This is an attempt at escalation."

"But if such weapons are used to attack Russian territory, the response will be very serious, if not overwhelming. Let them think about it," he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with journalists to comment on new US sanctions targeting two major Russia's oil producers in Moscow on Thursday. REUTERS

VLADIMIR PUTIN
Russian president



"This is, of course, an attempt to put pressure on Russia... But no self-respecting country and no self-respecting people ever decide anything under pressure.

3 Indian firms among 45 entities sanctioned by EU

NEW DELHI, PTI: Three India-based companies were among 45 entities sanctioned by the European Union on Thursday for their alleged links with the Russian military.

The European Council said it identified 45 new entities "directly supporting" Russia's military and industrial complex by "enabling the circumvention of export restrictions on computer numerical control machine tools, microelectronics, unmanned aerial vehicles and other advanced technology items."

The council's statement identified the Indian firms as Aerotrust Aviation Pvt Ltd, Ascend Aviation India Pvt Ltd, and Shree Enterprises.

US to halt support if Israel annexes West Bank: Trump

They would lose all support from the United States if that happened: US Prez

WASHINGTON, AFP

President Donald Trump said Israel would lose its crucial backing from the United States if it annexes the occupied West Bank, in a Time magazine interview published on Thursday.

Trump's comments, which Time said were made by telephone on October 15, were published as both Vice President JD Vance and Secretary of State Marco Rubio warned against any annexation.

"It won't happen. It won't happen because I gave my word to the Arab countries. And you can't do that now. We've had great Arab support," Trump said when asked what the consequences would be for Israel if it did so. "Israel would lose all of its support from the United States if that happened."

Trump also told Time that he believed Saudi Arabia would join the Abraham Accords, which normalise relations between Israel and Arab states, by the end of the year.

"Yes, I do. I do," he said when asked if he thought Riyadh would join in that timeframe. "See, they had a problem. They had a Gaza problem and they had an Iran problem. Now they don't have those two problems," he said, referring to Israel's war in Gaza and Iran's nuclear program, which US airstrikes targeted earlier this year.

Trump then said that he would be "making a decision" on whether Israel should release high-profile Palestinian prisoner Marwan Barghouti as part of peace moves.

Barghouti —from Hamas's rival, the Fatah movement — was among the Palestinian prisoners Hamas wanted to see released as part of the Gaza deal. Trump has dispatched a stream of top officials to Israel in recent days to shore up the fragile Gaza ceasefire he brokered earlier this month.

But as Vance wrapped up his three-day visit and Rubio arrived, Israeli lawmakers advanced two bills paving the way for West Bank annexation.

Vance said it was a "very stupid political stunt and I personally take some insult to it."

As Rubio left Washington he warned Israel against annexing the West Bank, saying steps taken by parliament and settler violence threatened the Gaza truce.

US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington DC. REUTERS FILE

Vance calls Israeli West Bank annexation vote an 'insult'

US Vice President JD Vance criticised Israel's parliament vote on West Bank annexation, calling it an "insult" and a move that contradicted Trump policies and efforts to ensure the US-brokered ceasefire between Israel and Hamas holds in Gaza, AP/PTI reports from Jerusalem.

The Israeli parliament on Wednesday narrowly passed a symbolic preliminary vote in support of annexing the occupied West Bank — an apparent attempt to embarrass Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu while Vance was still in the country. The bill was sponsored by hardliners, with only one member of Netanyahu's party joining them. With Netanyahu opposed, the bill is unlikely to pass the multiple votes required to become law. While many members of Netanyahu's coalition, including the Likud, support annexation, they have backed away from those calls since Trump said last month that he opposed such a move.

US e-waste causing hidden tsunami in Southeast Asia, says report

HANOI, AP/PTI

Millions of tons of discarded electronics from the United States are being shipped overseas, much of it to developing countries in Southeast Asia unprepared to safely handle hazardous waste, according to a new report released Wednesday by an environmental watchdog.

The Seattle-based Basel Action Network, or BAN, said a two-year investigation found at least 10 US companies exporting used electronics to Asia and the Middle East, in what it says is a "hidden tsunami" of electronic waste.

"This new, almost invisible tsunami of e-waste is taking place ... padding already lucrative profit margins of the electronics recycling sector while allowing a major portion of the American public's and corporate IT equipment to be surreptitiously exported to and processed under harmful conditions in Southeast Asia," the report said.

Electronic waste, or e-waste, includes discarded devices like phones and computers containing both valuable materials and toxic metals like lead, cadmium and mercury. As gadgets are replaced faster, global e-waste is growing five times quicker than it's formally recycled.

The world produced a record 62 million metric tons in 2022. That's expected to climb to 82 million by 2030, according to the United Nations' International Telecommunication Union and its research arm, UNITAR.

That American e-waste adds to the burden for Asia, which already produces nearly half the world's total. Much of it is dumped in landfills, leaching toxic chemicals into the environment. Some end up in informal scrapyards, where workers burn or dismantle devices by hand, often without protection, releasing toxic fumes and scrap.

About 2,000 containers — roughly 33,000 metric tons — of used electronics leave US ports every month, according to the report.

Sunil Amrith wins British Academy Book Prize

LONDON, PTI: 'The Burning Earth: An Environmental History of the Last 500 Years' by Indian-origin historian Sunil Amrith has been named the winner of this year's British Academy Book Prize, a prestigious 25,000-pound award that celebrates the world's best works of non-fiction.

Amrith, a Professor of History at Yale University in the US, was born in Kenya to South Indian parents. The 46-year-old's book, described by judges as "important reading" in the context of the climate crisis, received the prize at a ceremony at the British Academy on Wednesday.

Trump to meet Xi in South Korea

WASHINGTON, AFP: US President Donald Trump will meet his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping in South Korea next Thursday.

"On Thursday morning local time, President Trump will participate in a bilateral meeting with President Xi of the People's Republic of China," the White House said.

Hasina's son calls for lifting ban on Awami League

DHAKA, AP/PTI: The son of Bangladesh's ousted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called on the country's interim government to lift a ban on Hasina's Awami League party, saying an election that excludes it would be a sham.

Sajeeb Wazed said that Bangladesh would remain politically unstable if the current interim government, headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus, fails to hold an inclusive election slated for next year.

Intoxicated Indian-origin trucker causes crash in US, kills 3

NEW YORK, PTI: A 21-year-old Indian-origin truck driver has been accused of causing a semi-truck crash while allegedly driving intoxicated, killing three people in the US state of California earlier this week, according to a media report.

Jashanpreet Singh allegedly rammed his truck into slow-moving traffic in Southern California on Tuesday, Fox News reported on Wednesday. At least three people were killed and several others were injured in the crash. Quoting the police, the report said Singh never hit the brakes of his truck before slamming into the traffic. It also said that toxicology tests confirmed impairment.

He has been arrested on suspicion of gross vehicular manslaughter while intoxicated. Singh, an illegal immigrant, crossed the southern border of the US in 2022 and was released pending an immigration hearing, according to the report.

Paul Kapur sworn in as US Assistant Secy for South and Central Asian Affairs

WASHINGTON, PTI

Indian-American author and security expert Paul Kapur has been officially sworn in as the new Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs at the US Department of State.

His swearing-in was announced by the Bureau in a social media post on late Wednesday night. "Welcome to @State_SCA, Assistant Secretary Paul Kapur! This morning Dr. Kapur was officially sworn in as the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs," it said.

Kapur will oversee America's diplomatic engagement and strategic partnerships in India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.

He succeeds Donald Lu, who served in the post since 2021.

Kapur was born in New Delhi to an Indian father and an American mother. He served as a professor in the Department of National Security Affairs at the US Naval Postgraduate School. He is a visiting fellow at Stanford University's Hoover Institution.

From 2020-2021, Kapur served on the State Department's Policy Planning Staff, working on issues related to South and Central Asia, Indo-Pacific strategy, and US-India relations.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
Indian Railways Institute of Signal Engineering and Telecommunications, Secunderabad

EOI Notice No. CoE-IRISET-03-25, Dated: 17.10.2025

PUB/1328

Centre of Excellence (CoE)/IRISET working under Ministry of Railways seeks response from Prospective associate(s), for

1. EOI Notice no. CoE-IRISET-03-25, dated: 17.10.2025:- "Development of indigenous vendors for RFID readers and RFID tags for Kavach applications in Indian Railways" Product Prototype including field trials and through joint development program route to pursue existing need of Indian Railways.

Interested parties are advisd to see & keep watching all the updates on the following websites in connection with aforesaid EoI notice.

Websites: **https://www.ireps.gov.in, https://iriset.indianrailways.gov.in and https://iriset.railnet.gov.in**

A1672 **Executive Director/CoE/IRISET**

NOTICE

Inviting application for Requirement of Security guards at **Marshal & Baird Barrack, Bangalore.** Interested agencies / firms can apply. Details can be obtained from **56 COY ASC (Supply) Type 'G',** Bangalore on any working day till **24 Oct 2025** between **0900 Hrs to 1400 Hrs.**

OUTSOURCING OF OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF TRACK MACHINES

Tender Notice No.: TM_ Outsourcing_ TMachines, Dated: 17-10-2025; E-Tender are invited by the undersigned for the following work; **Item No. 1; Brief Description of Item :** Outsourcing of Operation and Maintenance of 25 nos. Track Machines for a period of two years in North East Frontier Railway. **Advertised Value :** ₹18,34,60,385.04/-; **Earnest Money**: ₹10,67,300/-; Date & time of **closing** of tender at **15:00** hrs. and **opening** at **15:30** hrs. on **10-11-2025**. Complete information alongwith the tender document of above e-tender will be available up to **14:30** hrs. on **10-11-2025** in the website **www.ireps.gov.in**

GM(W), Maligaon
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

PROVISION OF IOT DEVICES FOR MONITORING AND CONTROL OF ELECTRICAL GENERAL ASSETS

E-Tender Notice No.: EL/29/RT18_ 2025/K/815; dated: 16-10-2025. E-tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following work: **Tender No:** RT18_2025; **Name of work:** Katihar Division: Provision of IOT Devices for Monitoring and Control of Electrical General Assets like Lifts, Escalators, Platform (30/70%) Lighting, Street Light, Sub-Station, Pumps etc. over Katihar Division. (Phase-II). Tender Value: ₹5,58,04,724.00; Earnest Money: ₹4,29,000.00. **E-tender will be closed at** 15:00 hrs.on 10-11-2025 and **Opened at** 15:30 hrs. on 10-11-2025. The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available upto 15:00 hrs. of 10-11-2025 in website **http://www.ireps.gov.in**.

Sr. DEE/G & Chg./Katihar
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
"Serving Customers with a smile"

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

e-Tender Notice No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-95-96-25 Dated : 21.10.2025. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg)/Adra invites **02 (Two) nos.** e-tenders for Depot Ballast, Platform and Misc. Works as mentioned hereunder: **Sl. No., Tender Notice No. & Description of works** are as follows: **(1) No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-95-25, Dtd. 21.10.2025,** Chandrakona Road - Chandrakona Road eliminate the facility of DN main cum UP loop by provision of UP loop line and Passenger Platform at Chandrakona Road. **Tender Value:** ₹ 12,36,05,997.57. **(2) No. E-DRM-Engg-ADRA-96-25, Dtd. 21.10.2025,** Supply and delivery in stacks 50 mm gauge machine crushed ballast at Bokaro depot including loading the same into any type of Railway wagons. **Tender Value** : ₹ 4,00,54,176/-. **The Closing date and time of e-tenders** is on 19.11.2025 at 15.00 hrs. Details of above e-tenders may please be seen at website **www.ireps.gov.in**

(PR-757)

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
SIGNALLING WORKS

DRM(S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India Invites online e-tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms /Contractors for the following works: **Tender Notice No: SUR-N-T-2025-26-21, Date: 20.10.2025. Name of work with its locality**: Signalling works in connection with Yard improvement/ upgradation works like CTR(P), TRR(P), TSR(P), CTR(S), TBR manually and Turnout related works in Kurduwadi - Solapur - Wadi section of Solapur Division. **Approximate Cost of the work**: Rs. 1,10,20,182.94. **Cost of the tender form**: Nil. **Earnest money to be deposited**: Rs. 2,05,100/-. **Completion period of the work**: 12 Months. **Date & Time of Closing of tender**: 12.11.2025 after 15.30 Hrs. The details are available in ireps website. Corrigendum/ amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in**. The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway or in the form of Bank Guarantee and the original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document before closing date for submission of bids (i.e. excluding the last date of submission of bids) For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in**

Divisional Railway Manager, S&T Branch
DE/Sur-67 Central Railway, Solapur

खतरनाक व विस्फोटक सामान के साथ यात्रा करना दंडनीय अपराध है

ARC OF GPS BASED DIGITAL CLOCK

E-Tender Notice No. SNT-25-LMG-2025-26 dated:17-10-2025 E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No. SNT-25-LMG-2025-26 Name of work:** ARC of GPS based Digital Clock of various make like AE Telelink, Bentron, Epsilon Electronics and Dan electronics Pvt. ltd. including replacement of defective components and maintenance of the units for a period of 2 years. **Tender Value:** ₹29,28,942.25/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹58,600/-. **Date & Time of Closing of Tender:** At **15.00** hrs. **& opening** at **15.30** hrs. on **11-11-2025.** The complete information of above e-tender will be available in website **www.ireps.gov.in**

DSTE, Lumding
NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
Follow us on @SCRailwayindia
Details of the Tender Notices of S.C Railway can be seen on our website : www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER (through https://ireps.gov.in)

PUB/1323

CE/C-III/SC Construction Organisation, S.C.Railway, Secunderabad, respectively, invites e-tender on behalf of the President of India for the following works:

S.No.: 01 **NIT No.:** 26-CAO-C-SC-2025 Date:14/10/2025 **Name of Work:** Vijayawada Division - Proposed Redevelopment of Rajahmundry station-Dismantling of Existing structures and Rebuilding of 1) RPF & GRP office 2) Officers Rest House 3) SSE/Electrical and S&T offices 4) Mazdoor Union Office 5) Pay and use Toilets 6) ADEE(TRD)/ADSTE office 7) Railway Health Unit 8) Special Judicial Office 9) Railway Institute 10) Electrical substation (33/11 KV) at West Colony and other connected miscellaneous works **Estimated Cost (₹):** 16,27,64,827.10 **EMD (₹):** 9,63,800.00 **Completion Period:** 12(Twelve) Months **Date of Opening:** 11/11/2025 15:00hrs

1) For bid document and other details, please login to website **https://ireps.gov.in**.

2) Tenderers can submit their offers online during tender submission period which is the Fifteen days period prior to closing of tender.

3) Tenderers should watch for any corrigenda (issued online only) up to the date of commencement of the tender submission period.

Chief Administrative Officer,
A1666 **Const., Secunderabad**

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

Tender Notice No. : DRMENGGRNC-114-120-2025. Divisional Railway Manager (Engg), Ranchi-834003 for & on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following work. **Sl. No., Notice No. & Name of work** are as follows **: 1. DRMENGGRNC-114-2025**. Misc. Bridge Zonal work for the period ending up to 30.09.2027 under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Ranchi. **Tender Value :** ₹ 1,50,14,928/-, **EMD Value :** ₹ 2,25,100/- **2. DRMENGGRNC-115-2025**. Misc. Bridge Zonal work for the period ending up to 30.09.2027 for the section Muri-Chandil under the jurisdiciton of ADEN/Muri. **Tender Value :** ₹ 1,50,07,480/-, **EMD Value :** ₹ 2,25,000/- **3. DRMENGGRNC-116-2025**. Misc. Bridge Zonal work for the period ending up to 30.09.2027 for the section Muri-Barkakana under the jurisdiciton of ADEN/Muri. **Tender Value :** ₹ 1,20,00,640/-. **EMD Value :** ₹ 2,10,000/- **4. DRMENGGRNC-117-2025**. Misc. Bridge Zonal work for the period ending up to 30.09.2027 for the section Muri-Kotshila under the jurisdiciton of ADEN/Muri. **Tender Value :** ₹ 80,92,880/-. **EMD Value :** ₹ 1,61,900/- **5. DRMENGGRNC-118-2025**. Misc. Bridge Zonal work for the section Ex. Km. 428/12 to Km. 500/4 in Hatia Orga section for the period ending up to 30.09.2027 under the jurisdiciton of SSE/Works/Bano. **Tender Value :** ₹ 96,24,480/-. **EMD Value :** ₹ 1,92,500/- **6. DRMENGGRNC-119-2025**. Misc. Bridge Zonal work for the section Ex. Km. 500/4 to Km. 556/12 in Hatia Orga section for the period ending up to 30.09.2027 under the jurisdiciton of SSE/Works/Bano. **Tender Value :** ₹ 98,50,640/-. **EMD Value :** ₹ 1,97,000/- **7. DRMENGGRNC-120-2025**. Misc. Bridge Zonal work for the period ending up to 30.09.2027 under the jurisdiciton of ADEN/Settlement/Hatia. **Tender Value :** ₹ 1,40,30,600/-. **EMD Value :** ₹ 2,20,200/-. **Tender Closing date & time:** 10.11.2025 at 15.00 hrs. each. Tenderers can visit the website **www.ireps.gov.in** for online tendering. **(PR-753)**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE, INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
Construction & Maintenance Division
LPSC Campus, 80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru -560 008. Ph:080-25037203/080-2503214

23.10.2025

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, item rate tenders are invited for the following work:

Sl. No.	Name of work and NIT No. & Date	Estimated Amount	EMD	Period of Completion
1	Removing of debris, rubbish, cotton murrum, dry leaves, building materials, stone slabs & rotten tree trunks at LPSC(B) Campus, Bengaluru No:LPSC(B)/CMD/03/3016/C/MI/025/2025-26 Dated: 09.10.2025	₹12.79 Lakhs	₹ 25,580/-	12 Months
	Period of downloading: From 09.10.2025 to 28.10.2025			

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** Also detailed Notice Invting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from **www.isro.gov.in, www.lpsc.gov.in**

Sd/- Head CMD, LPSC(B)

HUL posts profit decline on sales disruption ahead of tax cuts

REUTERS

Hindustan Unilever Ltd reported a nearly 5% decline in profit before tax and exceptional items for the second quarter, as sales volumes took a hit before the government's goods and services tax cuts kicked in.

The Indian unit of UK's Unilever said its profit before tax and exceptional items fell to Rs 3,389 crore from Rs 3,564 crorea year ago.

Overall revenue from the sale of products grew 2% year-on-year to Rs 16,034 crore, benefitting from price hikes across HUL's portfolio and resilient demand in the company's beauty division. The segment posted a 5% year-on-year (YoY) rise in sales, led by skincare and cosmetics. Its profit after tax rose 3.6% as the company recorded a one-time gain of Rs 184 crore.

HUL shares as much as 3% post the results, but pared gains. They were last trading about 1% higher. Nonetheless, overall underlying volume growth was flat, as the company, along with peers, faced a temporary disruption in sales after the government announced sweeping goods and services tax cuts in August.

Distributors and retailers focused on liquidating existing inventories, delaying the flow of new orders ahead of the tax cuts taking effect on September 22.

Colgate Palmolive India too reports lower profit

REUTERS: Colgate-Palmolive's Indian unit reported a decline in second quarter profit on Thursday, due to a temporary disruption to sales after the government announced sweeping cuts to goods and services taxes.

The toothpaste maker's net profit for the quarter ended September 30 came in at Rs 328 crore, down 7.2% YoY, excluding the impact of a one-time tax credit last year.

Revenue from operations dropped 6.3% YoY to Rs 1,507 crore.

Colgate has said in prior calls with analysts that weak urban demand has been causing consumers to use staples such as toothpaste for longer, impacting overall volumes. It said the operating environment remained "difficult" in the second quarter.

The company has been sharpening its focus on differentiated offerings that promise higher quality oral benefits to tackle these challenges, leading with a more premium portfolio.

Body blow to Reliance as US sanctions force cut in Russian oil imports

It has a 25-year deal with Rosneft for a daily buy of upto 5L barrels

NEW DELHI, PTI

Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd, India's biggest buyer of discounted Russian oil, plans to scale back imports of Russian crude oil following fresh US sanctions on Moscow-linked firms, sources said.

State-run refiners, however, may continue purchases through intermediary traders for now, industry officials said.

Reliance, which operates the world's largest single-site oil refining complex at Jamnagar in Gujarat, purchased about half of the 1.7-1.8 million barrels per day of discounted Russian crude shipped to India.

The company refines the crude into petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF), a large share of which is exported to markets such as Europe and the United States at market prices, generating strong margins.

All this may change after US President Donald Trump imposed sanctions on Open Joint Stock Company Rosneft Oil Company (Rosneft) and Lukoil OAO (Lukoil) -- Russia's two largest oil companies that he accuses of helping fund the Kremlin's "war machine" in Ukraine.

This means that no entity, American or foreign, can have any commercial dealings with the sanctioned Russian companies. Violators face civil or criminal penalties.

Reliance, which has signed a 25-year deal to buy up to 500,000 barrels of crude oil per day (25 million tonnes in a year) with Rosneft, will now reduce and potentially halt all purchases from Russia, three sources with knowledge of the matter said.

The company has huge business interest in the US and cannot risk attracting scrutiny,

Reliance's Jamnagar refinery complex.

they said.

Reliance, which bought an estimated $35 billion worth of Russian oil since the start of the Ukraine war in February 2022, started "recalibration" of its imports soon after the recent European Union adopted its 18th package of sanctions against Moscow in late July this year.

Recalibration is nothing but moving the import requirement to a different region. And this may get expedited now, sources said.

Transactions involving the two sanctioned Russian firms need to be wound down by November 21.

Reliance did not respond to emails seeking comments.

The other company to be hit hard by the US sanctions is Nayara Energy. The firm, in which Rosneft holds a 49.13% stake, has been entirely reliant on Russian crude supplies since the EU imposed sanctions against it in July.

Nayara did not respond to an email sent for comments.

State-owned oil refiners, however, are not in such dire straits as they do not have any direct contract with Rosneft or Lukoil and had been buying Russian oil through intermediary traders, mostly European (who are out of the sanctions net), sources said. That purchase can continue for now.

The public-sector units are assessing compliance risks, checking every contract to look for Rosneft footprint.

Reliance signed the term deal with Rosneft in December 2024. It also buys oil from intermediaries.Its purchase sing the full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, account for roughly 8 per cent of Moscow's crude sales over that period.

In 2021, before the Ukraine war, Reliance bought just USD 85 million worth of Russian oil.

The Indian government has maintained that the country's purchases are not illegal as no sanctions have yet been imposed on Russian crude buys. It has pointed to US officials previously encouraging it to buy Russian crude to stabilise global energy prices.

It has called as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable" Trump's decision to double tariffs on Indian goods coming to the US to 50% because of Russian oil purchases. The country's purchases of Russian oil were "based on market factors," it has maintained.

NMPA AT 50

Celebrating maritime excellence

The New Mangalore Port Authority will be showcasing India's port vision at India Maritime Week 2025. The port, while celebrating 50 years of legacy, is leading the nation's maritime transformation towards a Viksit Bharat by 2047

As New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) marks its golden jubilee, the port stands as a beacon of India's maritime growth - symbolising five decades of progress, innovation and sustainability. Established in 1975, NMPA has transformed from a modest coastal port into a modern maritime hub, handling over 46 million metric tonnes (MMT) of cargo in the financial year 2024-25 and aiming to cross 100 MMT by 2047.

This year's milestone celebration gains further prominence with NMPA's platinum sponsorship and active participation in India Maritime Week 2025 (IMW), to be held between October 27 and 31 in Mumbai. The premier global maritime event, organised by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, will bring together over 100 nations, 500 exhibitors, and one lakh delegates, showcasing India's maritime leadership.

At IMW 2025, NMPA will highlight its achievements in automation, technology adoption, cruise tourism and sustainability, participating in key sessions such as Technology and Automation; Cruise Development; and State Maritime Initiatives.

Through exhibitions and MoU signings, the port aims to forge collaborations that align with the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 - envisioning India as a global maritime superpower.

NMPA's golden jubilee projects reflect this forward momentum - including a 150-bed multi-specialty public-private partnership hospital (the first of its kind among major ports), modern warehouses, truck terminals and a dedicated cruise terminal gate. The port has also achieved 100 per cent in solar power utilisation, advanced digitisation and received multiple awards for environmental excellence.

As IMW 2025 sets the stage for the future of trade, connectivity and the blue economy, NMPA proudly sails at the forefront - celebrating 50 years of legacy while leading the nation's maritime transformation towards a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Curated by DH Brandspot

Amendments to IT rules: Focus on curbing AI misuse

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

In a move to curb deepfakes and misuse of various AI (artificial intelligence) tools, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has proposed amendments to IT rules, mandating clear labelling of AI-generated content that will help users distinguish real content from synthetic.

Experts said this will provide a safer accountable digital space for users. Of late, AI-generated fake images and videos have been increasing and recently, the Bombay High Court condemned and ordered urgent removal of actor Akshay Kumar's deepfake AI-generated video and expressed concern over the harm that fake content such as this could create.

Akif Khan, VP analyst, Gartner, said, "If this comes into law, enterprises will need to put processes in place to ensure that any content that they produce and publish is appropriately labelled if it was AI generated."

The amendments strive to address issues of deep fake, which has become a worry.

"Going further, in the spirit of building trust, enterprises should use new standards such as C2PA (Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity) Content Credentials to establish the authenticity and origins of any original content that they produce," he added.

The proposed amendments aim to strengthen the due diligence obligations of intermediaries—particularly social media intermediaries (SMIs) and significant social media intermediaries (SSMIs)—in light of the growing misuse of technologies which are used for the creation or generation of synthetic media, the IT ministry said.

Earlier it included amendments in October 2022 and April 2023.

Mahesh Makhija, Partner and Technology Consulting Leader, EY India said the proposed rules mark a clear step toward ensuring authenticity in digital content.

"Labelling AI generated material and embedding non-removable identifiers will help users distinguish real content from synthetic. This will serve as the foundation for responsible AI adoption, these measures will give businesses the confidence to innovate and scale AI responsibly," he added.

MeitY tightens rules on removal of social media content

Move follows legal battle with Musk's X.

NEW DELHI, DHNS

To bring transparency and streamline the system in social media content take-down procedures, the Union Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) has said that only senior officials can issue order removal of unlawful information.

As per the amended IT rules that come into effect from November 15, only top officials in the rank of joint secretary or higher and police officials who are serving as the Deputy Inspector General or above can issue content takedown orders.

The new rules also required that concerned authorities have to intimate social media companies by specifying the reasons for issuing removal of content

Elon Musk's social media platform X (formerly Twitter) has been in a legal battle with the IT Ministry on the content removal issue. The X earlier alleged ' policing' by government authorities, allowing thousands of officials to issue takedown orders. X's petition in court also alleged that police inspectors were issuing directions to the micro blogging site to remove contents.

Insisting that it made changes in the IT rules on takedown, the IT ministry said that this was done to streamline content takedown procedures and bring transparency, clarity and precision in actions. As per the ministry, the amendments strike a balance between the constitutional rights of citizens and the legitimate regulatory powers of the state, ensuring that enforcement actions are transparent and do not lead to arbitrary restrictions.

Further, all intimations on content removal issued under Rule 3(1)(d) will be subject to a monthly review by an officer, not below the rank of secretary of the appropriate government, to ensure that such actions remain "necessary, proportionate, and consistent with law".

Under Rule 3(1)(d), intermediaries are required to remove unlawful information upon receiving actual knowledge either through a court order or notification from the appropriate authority, IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw told media persons.

A review undertaken by the IT ministry had highlighted the need for additional safeguards and checks and balances to ensure senior-level accountability, precise specification of unlawful content, and periodic review of government directions at higher level.

"The intimation must clearly specify the legal basis and statutory provision, the nature of the unlawful act, and the specific URL/identifier or other electronic location of the information, data or communication link (content) to be removed," the IT ministry said.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE U R RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
HAL Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bangalore - 560 017
CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP
(Phone : 080 25084168, 4175, 4169) (Fax:080 25084155)

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

1. On behalf of President of India, item rate tenders are invited for the following works.

Name of work	Replacement of Compressed Air line with new SS piping in SIH and Harness Lab of AITF-1 building at ISITE Campus-URSC, Marathahalli, Bengaluru-560037	Miscellaneous HVAC and Compressed Air Piping works in various labs at Main Campus, URSC, Vimanapura, Bengaluru-560017
E-Tender Notice	URSC/C and MG/ACMD/AC/0047/ ETN-03/2025-26 Dt. 23.10.2025	URSC/C and MG/ACMD/AC/0048/ ETN-04/2025-26 Dt. 23.10.2025
Estimated cost put to Tender	₹ 22.08 Lakhs	₹ 23.68 Lakhs
Tender Document Details	E-Tender	
Period of completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	180 days / 06 months	
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	From 10:30 Hrs. on 24.10.2025 to 16:30Hrs. on 07.11.2025	
Bid clarification	From 11:00 Hrs. on 24.10.2025 to 17:00 Hrs. on 10.11.2025	
Last date and time of reply to Bid clarification.	Upto 17:00hrs on 12.11.2025	
Last date and time for receipt of tenders.	Upto 14:30 Hrs. on 19.11.2025	
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	After 15:00 Hrs. on 19.11.2025	
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	Rs. 44,160/- (Validity for 180 days)	Rs. 47,360/- (Validity for 180 days)

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: www.isro.gov.in and download the tender documents from www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO

Group Director, (Construction & Maintenance Group)

भारत सरकार /Government of India
अंतरिक्ष विभाग/Department of Space
भारतीय अंतरिक्ष अनुसंधान संगठन/Indian Space Research Organization
[मुख्यालय]/[Headquarters]

पेंशन अदालत PENSION ADALAT

दिनांक 07.01.2026(बुधवार) को पूर्वाह्न 1100 बजे से अपराह्न 1600 बजे तक इसरो मु. एवं यू.आर.एस.सी. के पेंशनभोगियों के लिए संबंधित केंद्रों द्वारा पेंशन अदालत आयोजित की जाएगी। इस संबंध में, अं.वि./इसरो मु. के पेंशनभोगी/परिवार के पेंशनभोगी अपनी शिकायत, यदि कोई, को लिखित रूप में अदालत के विचारार्थ वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी, स्थापना, इसरो मु., अंतरिक्ष भवन, न्यू बी.ई.एल. रोड, बेंगलूरु – 560 094 को **hqestt@isro.gov.in** पर ई-मेल द्वारा अग्रेषित कर सकते हैं अथवा 080/22172265 पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं।

A Pension Adalat will be held for the pensioners of ISRO HQ & URSC by the respective centres **from 1100 hrs to 1600 hrs on 07.01.2026 (Wednesday)**. In this connection, Pensioners/ Family Pensioners of DOS/ISRO HQ, may forward their grievance, if any, in writing, for consideration in the Adalat, to Sr. Admin Officer, Establishment, ISRO HQ, Antariksh Bhavan, New BEL Road, Bengaluru – 560 094, or through email **hqestt@isro.gov.in** or may contact 080/22172265.

यू.आर.एस.सी. के पेंशनभोगी/परिवार के पेंशनभोगी अपनी शिकायत, यदि कोई, को लिखित रूप में वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी (स्थापना), यू.आर.एस.सी., पो.बॉ. सं. 1795, ओल्ड एयरपोर्ट रोड, विमानपुरा पोस्ट, बेंगलूरु – 560017 को **psbmani@ursc.gov.in** पर ई-मेल द्वारा अग्रेषित कर सकते हैं अथवा 080-25084105 (यू.आर.एस.सी.) पर संपर्क कर सकते हैं। पूर्ण विवरण तथा संपर्क सूत्र के साथ शिकायतें 01.12.2025 तक या इससे पहले संबंधित केंद्रों को अग्रेषित की जा सकती हैं। कृपया नोट करें कि विधिक/नीतिगत मामलों पर अदालत में कार्रवाई नहीं की जा सकती। अदालत में पेंशनभोगी की भागीदारी पूर्णतः स्वैच्छिक है तथा इसकी लागत/व्यवस्था की जिम्मेदारी पेंशनभोगी की होगी।

The pensioners/ family pensioners of URSC may forward their grievance, if any in writing to Sr. Admin Officer (Estt.), URSC, P.B No.1795, Old Airport Road, Vimanapura Post, Bengaluru- 560 017, or through email: **psbmani@ursc.gov.in** or contact 080-25084105(URSC). The grievances with complete details and contact no. maybe forwarded to respective centres on or before **01.12.2025**. Please note that, the grievance involving legal/policy matters, cannot be taken up in Adalat. Participation in the Adalat is purely voluntary and at own cost/ arrangement by the pensioner.

बेंगलूरु/Bengaluru

वरिष्ठ प्रशासनिक अधिकारी (स्था.), इसरो मु.
Senior Administrative Officer (Estt), ISRO HQ

VC funding in India slows in Q3

UMA KANNAN
BENGALURU, DHNS

Considering the global geopolitical uncertainties and significant trade tensions with the US, Venture Capital (VC) investment in India remained slow in the third quarter (July-September). But given India's strong macros and vibrant capital market and if trade uncertainties are resolved, there is good optimism that VC investment will begin to rebound, said KPMG in its latest Venture Pulse Q3 2025 report.

The report pointed out that Asia continued to see relatively muted VC flows, reflecting a more cautious funding environment.

Global VC investment rose to $120 billion in the third quarter of 2025, up from $112 billion in Q2. Mentioning the dominance of AI in July-September period, the report said Artificial Intelligence (AI) continued to attract massive deals, and it remains the top priority for VC investors globally.

"While interest in India remains high, VC investors have found it difficult to predict what might happen day-to-day, leading them to hold back from making any major funding decisions," the report highlighted.

The largest deal of the quarter in India was a $140 million raise by consumer goods delivery focused company Mitra.

"Despite the soft VC investment in Q3'25, there continued to be optimism in the market given the growth in startup exit activity — particularly in terms of IPO exits. During the quarter, IPO activity was quite strong compared to previous quarters; for example, rent-a-service company Urban Company held a very successful IPO on the NSE with shares rising 74% in first day trading," the report added.

Nitish Poddar, Partner and National Leader, Private Equity, KPMG in India said, "VC investment results in India this quarter were driven by the speed bump that was the US tariffs, but people expect that by the end of November that will settle."

AI firms raise funds

Business AI company Uniphore has closed its $260 million Series F round. NVIDIA, AMD, Snowflake, and Databricks invested in the round and were joined by financial and sovereign investors including NEA, March Capital, BNF Capital, National Grid Partners, and Prosperity7 Ventures. The new capital will accelerate innovation on its AI and data platform – Business AI Cloud. Another startup UnifyApps, which is an enterprise AI platform service provider, announced $0 million fundraising, led by WestBridge Capital.

Hero MotoCorp enters UK, partners with MotoGB for distribution

NEW DELHI, PTI: Homegrown two-wheeler major Hero MotoCorp on Thursday announced its foray into the United Kingdom in partnership with MotoGB.

The company will introduce its advanced Euro 5+ range, featuring Hunk 440, designed to meet the growing demand for high-performance motorcycles in the region, as part of its UK launch, MotoCorp said in a statement.

The UK entry marks the company's 51st international market, strengthening its footprint across Europe, it added.

"Following our foray into Italy and Spain, our partnership with MotoGB further strengthens our European footprint," Hero MotoCorp Executive Vice President Sanjay Bhan said.

He further said, "The launch of Hunk 440 reflects our deep understanding of UK riders - a motorcycle that stays true to the core of motorcycling while offering style, performance and reliability in an accessible package."

Hero MotoCorp said Lancashire-based distributor MotoGB will make its product range available to customers in the UK, initially through a network of over 25 official sales and service outlets.

WazirX to restart operations today

BENGALURU, DHNS: Crypto exchange WazirX on Thursday announced that it would be restarting operations from October 24, Friday. This follows the completion of its restructuring process, sanctioned by the High Court of Singapore.

Nischal Shetty

The relaunch will begin with certain crypto-to-crypto pairs and USDT/INR pair, followed by the gradual expansion of additional markets in the coming days, WazirX said.

A cyberattack on WazirX in July last year resulted in the theft of about Rs 2,000 crore worth of funds, and the exchange has not been operational since then.

The exchange also announced that as part of the Restart Offer, all users can avail 0% trading fees across all trading pairs.

Nischal Shetty, Founder of WazirX, said, "At the heart of everything we do is our mission to make crypto accessible to every Indian. I want to thank the WazirX community for their patience through these difficult times. Asset security is currently a crucial aspect in the global crypto ecosystem. Our partnership with BitGo adds an additional layer of trust and protection with world-class custody standards, as we restart. This isn't just a return to operations, it's a reinforcement of our integrity which we've always strived for." Earlier this week, WazirX completed token swaps, merger, delisting, migration of tokens and any rebranding that the tokens may have undergone.

Natural Grace wins main event

KOLKATA RESULTS

Neil Darashah-trained Natural Grace, ridden by Akshay Kumar, won the Aazish Cup, the feature event of the Kolkata races on Thursday.

1. Star Magic Handicap - 1100M: Jamaica (Anand Chopra) Vaibhav 1; Horus The Great (Vishal Bunde) 2; Diamond Gold (Imran Chisty) 3; Mahalagha (Varun) 4; Wb: 3, 1/2, 6L. T: 1:08.06. TB: Javed Khan. Fav: Jamaica.

2. Comedy Of Errors Handicap - 1400M: Dancing Queen (Ramesh Sanghi) Varun 1; Soul Aquarian (Vaibhav) 2; Lineupandcollect (Vishal Bunde) 3; Amalfita (Shezad Khan) 4; Wb: 3-1/4, 1/2, 1/2L. T: 1:28.92. TB: Vikash Jaiswal. K. Fav: Soul Aquarian.

3. Starry Flag Handicap - 1400M: Dance Along (Anil Saraf) Suraj Narredu 1; Keitaro (Imran Chisty) 2; Jean Lafette (Vaibhav) 3; Sporting Trainer (Varun) 4; Not Run: Veneno. Wb: 6-3/4, 3/4L, Shd. T: 1:27.69. TB: Rajesh Narredu. Fav: Epic Play.

4. Daring Don Handicap - 1100M: Kay Star (Rakesh Bathra) Imran Chisty 1; Clever Hans (Varun) 2; Sabar (Akshay Kumar) 3; Light The World (Vaibhav) 4; Wb: 1-1/4, 1-1/2, 2-3/4L. 1:06.53. TB: Rutherford Alford. Fav: Kay Star.

5. Aazish Cup - 1600M: Natural Grace (Hemant Dharnidharka) Akshay Kumar 1; Great Guns (Vaibhav) 2; Snowpiercer (Surajj Narredu) 3; Stormy Ocean (Azharuddin) 4; Wb: 1, Lnk, 6-3/4L. T: 1:40.35. TB: Neil Darashah. Fav: Snowpiercer.

6. Bold Chieftain Handicap - 1100M: Kerry Gold (Shapoor Mistry) JH Arul 1; Bundle Of Charm (Md Imran) 2; Oishika (RS Bhati) 3; Swift Lady (Imran Chisty) 4; Wb: 3/4, Shd, 3-1/4L. T: 1:06.68. TB: Neil Darashah. Fav: Kerry Gold.

Bengaluru dividends

I race: Rs 16w; 10, 10, 20p; Fc: Rs 25; Q: Rs 23; Shp: Rs 24; Thp: Rs 35; Tri: Rs 220 & 89; Ex: Rs 763 & 424.

II race: Rs 34w; Rs 13, 12, 26p; Fc: Rs 212; Q: Rs 103; Shp: Rs 36; Thp: Rs 55; Tri: Rs 648 & 909; Ex: Rs 2,839 & 3,347.

III race: Rs 27w; 11, 13, 15p; Fc: Rs 121; Q: Rs 63; Shp: Rs 23; Thp: Rs 42; Tri: Rs 248 & 139; Ex: Rs 779 & 238.

IV race: Rs 20w; 11, 31, 11p; Fc: Rs 1,338; Q: Rs 486; Shp: Rs 140; Thp: Rs 44; Tri: Rs 1,221 & 268: Ex: Rs 15,734 & 13,486.

V race: Rs 26w; 23, 11p; Fc: Rs 148; Q: Rs 66; Shp: Rs 29; Thp: Rs 62; Tri: Rs 78 & 28; Ex: Rs 167 & 174.

VI race: Rs 21w; 12, 60, 14p; Fc: Rs 484; Q: Rs 463; Shp: Rs 121; Thp: Rs 43; Tri: Rs 1,634 & 428; Ex: Rs 37,982 & 8,139.

Jackpot: Rs 3,912 (61). **Runner-up:** Rs 439 (233). **I treble:** Rs 327 (9). **II treble:** Rs 292 (31).

Bee Magical for feature

PUNE SELECTIONS

Imtiaz Sait-trained Bee Magical, to be ridden by Neeraj Rawal, is fancied to win the P Hadow Trophy, the feature event of the Pune races run over a sprint at the races on Friday.

The first race starts at 1:30 pm.

1. AJ Wadia Plate - 1400M: Yuletide 1, Marlboro Man 2, Lion King 3.

2. Maddox Plate - 1000M: Foxy 1, Akitania 2, Rafael 3.

3. To The Manor Born Plate (Div I) - 1400M: Claude 1, Machiavellian 2, Renoir 3.

4. Shammu Chavan Salver (Div II) - 1600M: Duesenberg 1, Beyond Stars 2, Come September 3.

5. P Hadow Trophy - 1200M: Bee Magical 1, Lord Eric 2, Aperol 3.

6. Shamu Chavan Salver (Div I) - 1600M: Exciting 1, Mysteriousstranger 2, Little John 3.

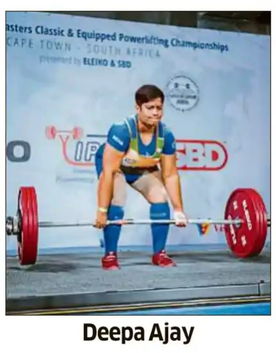
7. To The Manor Born Plate (Div II) - 1400M: Jackson 1, Hazel 2, Fizzy 3.

8. Star Millionaire Plate - 1200M: Windborne 1, Celestina 2, We Still Believe 3.

Day's best: Jackson.

Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

I treble: 2, 3 & 4. **II treble:** 5, 6 & 7.



Deepa Ajay

Powerlifter Deepa continues to rise

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's powerlifter Deepa Ajay continued her remarkable rise by winning a silver medal in squats and setting two Asian records at the World Classic & Equipped Masters Powerlifting Championships held in Cape Town earlier this month.

She also finished fourth overall and set a new open total national record.

Nishu, Pulkit, Srishti stumble

NOVI SAD (SERBIA), PTI: Three Indian women wrestlers -- Nishu, Pulkit and Srishti -- fell in the semifinal stage after good starts in their respective categories and were left to fight for bronze at the U23 World Championships, here Thursday.

Nishu (55kg) lost to Turkiye's Tuba Demir 6-4 in a close last-four bout to deny her a shot at the gold medal.

Pulkit (65kg) went down 6-9 to Elizaveta Petliakova while in the 68kg category, Srishti was defetaed by Alina Shevchenko (10-6).

FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Liverpool roar back to life

Former champs Real, Bayern and Chelsea post smooth victories

PARIS, AFP

Real Madrid's Jude Bellingham celebrates after scoring against Juventus during their Champions League game at the Santiago Bernabeu on Wednesday. REUTERS

Hugo Ekitike scored against his old club as Liverpool got back on track with a 5-1 victory at Eintracht Frankfurt in the Champions League on Wednesday while Chelsea, Real Madrid and Bayern Munich were among the night's other winners.

The Anfield side came into their trip to Germany reeling after a run of four consecutive defeats which included a 1-0 loss to Galatasaray in their last Champions League outing.

They bounced back in style by coming from behind to hammer Eintracht, who suffered a second straight 5-1 defeat in Europe -- having started their Champions League campaign with a 5-1 win.

Rasmus Kristensen gave the hosts the lead but Ekitike broke away to equalise against the team he left in July in a £79 million ($105.5m) deal.

Virgil van Dijk headed the visitors in front at a corner on 39 minutes and Ibrahima Konate made it 3-1 before the interval in almost identical fashion.

Cody Gakpo and Dominik Szoboszlai added further goals in the second half as Liverpool moved up to 10th in the 36-team league phase standings.

Chelsea won by the same scoreline against Ajax at Stamford Bridge, in a match which featured an early red card and three first-half penalties.

Kenneth Taylor was sent off for the Dutch visitors before Marc Guiu and Moises Caicedo scored for the Premier League side.

Wout Weghorst pulled one back from the spot for Ajax but Enzo Fernandez and Estevao both converted penalties before half-time for Chelsea.

Tyrique George rounded off the scoring in the second half as for the first time in Champions League history three teenagers scored for the same team.

Chelsea have now won their last two European outings since beginning their campaign with a 3-1 defeat at Bayern.

Ajax, meanwhile, are bottom of the standings as one of only two teams without a point after three games -- the other is Jose Mourinho's Benfica.

Bayern are one of five teams with the maximum nine points as Harry Kane scored his 20th goal in 12 club appearances this season in a 4-0 cruise against Club Brugge.

Lennart Karl, 17, got the opener before Kane, Luis Diaz and Nicolas Jackson also hit the target for the Bundesliga champions.

Madrid also have nine points following a hard-earned 1-0 victory against Juventus at the Santiago Bernabeu as England captain Kane's compatriot Jude Bellingham scored for the first time this season.

The goal came just before the hour mark, with Bellingham converting the rebound after Vinicius hit the upright. Juventus have now gone seven games without a win.

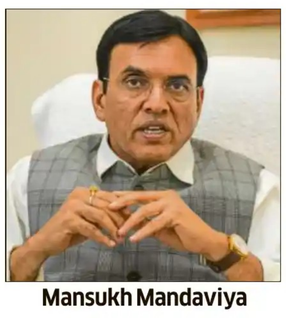
Tottenham Hotspur became the only one of England's six representatives to fail to win this midweek as they were held to a 0-0 draw away to Monaco.

In Lisbon, Portuguese champions Sporting came from behind to defeat Marseille 2-1 in a game which hinged on a red card in first-half stoppage time.

Results: Galatasaray: 3 (Osimhen 3rd, 33rd, Akgun 60th) bt Bodo/Glimt: 1 (Helmersen 76th); Athletic Bilbao: 3 (Guruzeta 40th, 88th, Navarro 70th) bt Qarabag: 1 (Andrade 1st); Chelsea: 5 (Guiu 18th, Caicedo 27th, Fernandez 45th, Estevao 45+6th, George 48th) bt Ajax: 1 (Weghorst 33rd); Atalanta: 0 drew with Slavia Prague: 0; Eintracht Frankfurt: 1 (Kristensen 26th) lt to Liverpool: 5 (Ekitike 35th, Van Dijk 39th, Konate 44th, Gakpo 66th, Szoboszlai 70th); Sporting Lisbon: 2 (Catamo 69th, Santos 86th) lt to Marseille: 1 (Paixao 14th); Monaco: 0 drew Tottenham: 0; Real Madrid: 1 (Bellingham 57th) bt Juventus: 0; Bayern Munich: 4 (Karl 5th, Kane 14th, Diaz 34th, Jackson 79th) bt Club Brugge: 0.

SM invites public feedback on new Sports Bill

NEW DELHI, PTI



Mansukh Mandaviya

The Sports Ministry has set November 14 as the deadline for general public to submit feedback on the draft rules of the National Sports Governance Act, which seeks to revamp the country's sports administration and dispute resolution set-up among other aspects.

The ministry has posted the draft rules for the National Sports Board (NSB), the National Sports Tribunal (NST) and the National Sports Election Panel (NSEP) on its website and sought public feedback.

"These Rules have been formulated to facilitate the implementation of the National Sports Governance Act, 2025," the ministry stated. "The Act seeks to ensure ethical practices, fair play across all levels of sport, safeguard the interests of sportspersons as the primary stakeholders, and create a robust ecosystem for sports in the country."

The feedback can be submitted to the Ministry either by post or by email at rules-nsga2025@sports.gov.in.

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya is keen to implement the act in the first half of 2026 by finalising the NSB at the end of this year.

"Last date for submission of comments/feedback is 14 November 2025," the ministry said.

The NSB will have the power to not just grant affiliation to the National Sports Federations (NSFs) but also monitor their financial operations and penalise them for any wrongdoing.

It would be mandatory for NSFs to take NSB affiliation to be eligible for government funding.

India re-elected vice-chair

India was re-elected vice-chair of the Conference of Parties (Asia-Pacific) to the International Convention against Doping in Sport at its 20th anniversary meeting in Paris that featured representatives of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) among others, reports PTI from New Delhi.

India to bid for Asian Relays

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

India won three medals (one gold and two silver) at the last Asian Relays Championships in Bangkok. PTI FILE PHOTO

Athletics Federation of India (AFI) are bidding for the hosting rights for the Asian Relays Championships next year. AFI spokesperson and former president Adille Sumariwalla confirmed that the Indian body is bidding for the event, adding that no venue has been finalised yet.

Another official, in the knowledge of the development, suggested that New Delhi's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium is preferred as the venue for the event.

Delhi successfully hosted the World Para Athletics Championships with the newly-laid Mondo track (considered the fastest among all tracks), the only stadium in India with such a facility.

The Asian Athletics Association (AAA) organised the inaugural and only edition of Asian Relays in 2024 in Bangkok, where India won the mixed 4x400m gold and men's and women's 4x400m relay silver medals.

If cleared as the host, this will be India's first major continental-level tournament since Bhubaneswar hosted the Asian Athletics Championships in 2017.

Also, the South Asian Athletics Championships kicks off in Ranchi.

A draft of AFI's domestic schedule for the next season is also ready, with two of the major events set to be the selection trials for next year's CWG and Asian Games.

The National Federation Athletics Championships, usually the first major domestic event in a calendar year, is likely to be the trials in May for the Commonwealth Games (July 23 to August 2).

Meanwhile, the National Inter-State Athletics Championships in July is tentatively picked as the selection trials for the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games (September 19 to October 4).

Venues for both competitions are to be finalised while the dates remain subject to change pending final approval from the AFI top brass.

Juniors look to make a mark

A second string Indian team, made up of several junior players, will look to continue the country's dominance in the South Asian Senior Athletics Championships which will make a return after 15 years here on Friday, reports PTI from Ranchi.

The fourth edition of the championships to be held at the Birsa Munda Stadium under the aegis of South Asian Athletics Federation (SAAF) will mark the revival of the regional event after Kochi in Kerala hosted the last one in 2008.

The championships is being held in India for the third time, with the country having hosted the inaugural edition in 1997. Sri Lanka hosted the 2nd edition in 1998.

FCBU stretch lead at the summit

BENGALURU, DHNS

ASC & Centre FC's Tongbram Krishnakanta Singh (left) and Abdul Jiyadka of MEG & Centre FC battle for possession. DH PHOTO/ BK JANARDHAN

Ribhav Sardesai scored a brace as FC Bengaluru United thumped Bharat Bengaluru FC to stretch their lead at the top of the table to six points in the KSFA Super Division League Championship here at the Bangalore Football Stadium on Thursday.

FCBU got off to a positive start after Ribhav struck first of his two goals in the 10th minute. Lijo K doubled the lead five minutes later but rampant FCBU couldn't make further inroads in the opening half.

Like in the first half, Ribhav scored the first goal of the second too, finding the back of the net in the 67th minute. Sherin Salari made it 4-0 in the 79th minute before Romorio Nazareth completed a thumping win with a goal in the first minute of injury time.

Results: On Thursday: FC Bengaluru United: 5 (Ribhav Sardesai 10th, 67th, Lijo K 15th, Sherin Salari 79th, Romorio Nazareth 90+1st) bt Bharat Bengaluru FC: 0; BFC: 4 (Neehang Subba 17th, 72nd, Ningthou Khongjam Rishi Singh 85th, Saarang Srinivas Chary 90th) bt FC Real Bengaluru: 0; ASC & Centre FC: 1 (Mait Shapheng Nengnong 88th) drew with MEG & Centre FC: 1 (Sarat Narayanan M 63rd).

On Wednesday: Kodagu FC: 4 (Sudhakar Ranjan 9th, 17th, Tagru James 30th, Aditya Pratap Singh Rathore 63rd) bt HAL FC: 1 (Ather Irshad 42nd pen); Sporting Club Bengaluru: 2 (Jomon Jacob 50th, Udit G 90th) bt Roots FC: 0; Rebels FC: 4 (Muhammed Fasil 16th, Ananthu Krishna NC 48th, Sahil Rashid Dar 57th, Hewangbha Dkhar 63rd) bt MFAR Students Union FC: 1 (Ankith Singh 53rd pen).

ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ (ಉ.ಕ.)

ನಂ:ಪಪಂಹೊ:ಕಾವಿ:ಅ.ಟೆಂ.ಪ್ರ:ವಿವ:2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 14/10/2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾನೂನು ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ–2000 ರಂತೆ ಪ್ರಸ್ತುತ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಪೌರಕಾರ್ಮಿಕರ ಗೃಹಭಾಗ್ಯ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬಿಡುಗಡೆಯಾದ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ವಸತಿಗೃಹ ನಿರ್ಮಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ (DMA/2025-26/BD/Work_Indent45112) KW-3 ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಐಟಂವಾರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಕ್ನಿಕಲ್ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೂನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28/10/2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗಾಗಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು, ಟೆಕನಿಕಲ್ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29/10/2025 ಹಾಗೂ ಫೈನಾನ್ಸಿಯಲ್ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03/11/2025 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾಗಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿ, ಟೆಂಡರ ಷರತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ www.honnavaratown.mrc.gov.in ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತ, ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ — ಸಹಿ/– ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯತ, ಹೊನ್ನಾವರ

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/638/25-26 Dt. 23.10.25

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No: SEE/Proj/MYS/EEE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/3680-81 Date: 21.10.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bids vide the below mentioned bid enquiry no.
Name of the work: Conducting detailed survey for proposed 220kV DC line from Madhuvanahalli R/s and 66kV line emanating from proposed 220kV Hannur R/s to 66/11kV Ajjipura, Ramapura, Lokkanahally S/s and to 66kV Kothanapura-Bandahalli proposed line in Hannur Taluk, Chamarajanagara District using Modern survey Techniques.
Bid Enquiry No: SEE/T(Proj)Circle/Mys/EE(O)/AEE-2/2025-26/220kV Hanur Dtd: 21.10.2025
The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **24.10.2025**. Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Ele.), Transmission (Proj) Circle, KPTCL, 1st Floor, Prasarana Bhavana, FTS Compound, N.R. Mohalla, Mysuru-570 007.

DEPARTMENT OF SERICULTURE
Office of the Executive Engineer, No.1 Division
No. 14, Reshme Bhavan, Okalipuram
Bangalore-560021

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಅ/ರೇಣ/ಮೈ.ಮಾ.ಡಿ.ಪಿ.ಆರ್./182/2025–26 Date : 23.10.2025

Short Term Tender Notification No. 06/2025-26

Short Term Tender invited from contractors for the works through KPP portal as per standard bid document. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through Indent No: **SD/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT11** Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Pre-bid meeting will be held on **Date: 28.10.2025 @ 11.30 A.M** in Executive Engineer, No.1 Division, DOS, Bengaluru. Last date for submission of tenders **Date: 30.10.2025 up to 16.00 hours.** Date of opening of technical bid **Date: 31.10.2025 at 16.30 hours** (if possible). Date of opening of Financial bid **Date: 03.11.2025 at 11.30 A.M** . Tender processing fees & EMD as per KPP Portal. Estimate Cost **Rs. 165.85 lakhs.** For more information contact the above office during office hours.

Note: Here after any changes with reference to this Notification will be Notified in KPP-Portal Only.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer**
No.1 Division, DOS, Bangalore

DIPR/CP/3389/SA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
U.R. RAO SATELLITE CENTRE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP
HAL Old Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 017.
(Phone: 080 25084156, 4184)
CORRIGENDUM - I

Sl.No	Description	Details
1	Name of work	Annual Contract for Lifting & Re-Installation of Submersible Pump sets and Flushing of Bore Wells at Main Campus URSC, ISITE Campus and Housing Colonies, Bengaluru.
2	E-Tender Notice No.	URSC/C&MG/C/M/19/2025-26 dated: 26/09/2025
3	Estimated cost put to tender	₹ 11.54 Lakhs
4	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded.	Extended upto 10.30 hrs on 31/10/2025
5	Last date and time for receipt of tenders	Up to 14.30 hrs. on 07/11/2025
6	Due date and time of opening of tenders	After 14.30 hrs on 07/11/2025

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting E-Tender (NIET) for eligibility criteria and other details along with Hindi version in website: **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**.

Sd/-, Group Director, C&MG

HUBLI ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Govt. of Karnataka Undertaking)
Superintending Engineer (Ele), O&M Circle, Shivaganga Layout, HESCOM Hubli-23
Phone No : 0836-2364144, Fax No : 0836-2366184,
E-Mail : seehbl.hescom@gmail.com GST No: 29AABCH3176JEZZ
Corporate Identity Number (CIN) : U31401KA2002SGC030437
No: HESCOM/SEE/EEE(O)/AEE-1/F-48/2025-26/2944-45
Date : 21-10-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPPP Portal Only)

Superintending Engineer(Ele), O and M Circle, HESCOM, Hubballi has invited Tender for Conversion of 33KV Over Head Line by 3CX400 Sqmm Under Ground Cable of 33KV Industrial Estate Line at 220 KV SRS KPTCL Premises feeding from 220KV SRS Hubballi in O&M Urban Division HESCOM Hubballi under Hazardous on Total Turn Key and lumpsum Basis in Two cover system. The details of work tender indent : HESCOM/2025-26/EL/ WORK_INDENT920.

The detailed notification regarding the bid enquiry can be obtained by logging on to the website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ on or after **24/10/2025** for further information, please contact telephone **9480883827 / 9448370227** during office hours.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, (Ele) O&M Circle Office, HESCOM, Hubballi.

DIPR/DWD/KSMCA/779/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department. Office of the Executive Engineer Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal. Phone & Fax No : 08539-220054 email: eemidnkst@rediffmail.com

No:EE/MI&GWDD/Koppal/PB/TP/2025-26/3610
Dated: 21.10.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal district invites tenders from the eligible tenderers registered civil contractors as per standard bid documents KW-3 & KW-4 on KPP portal for 12 no. of tender works pertaining to Koppal district & Raichur district The Approximate amount for the mentioned works Ranges between Rs.95.00 Lakhs to 990.00 Lakhs. Two cover tender procedure as per rule 28 of the KTTP act shall be followed.

For more information the contractor can contact the under signed during office hours and all information regarding tenders can be had from website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ The tender documents can be downloaded from the above website address on or after **24-10-2025**. Last date & time for receipt of tender is **04-11-2025** time 17.30 hours, Pre bid meeting will be held on **30-10-2025**, 11.00 Hours at division office koppal, Date & time for opening of technical bid **06-11-2025** time 11.00 hours, date and time for opening of financial bid **10-11-2025** time 11.00 hours (If technical bid sanction is accorded by the competent authority).

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation and Ground Water Development Department Division Koppal.

DIPR/Koppal/403/KSMCA/2025-26

IN BRIEF

Jordan to lead K'taka boys

▸ Jordan Paul Mobin of Bengaluru FC will lead defending champions Karnataka at the Sub-Junior Boys National Football Championship, scheduled to be held in Amritsar from October 27 to November 6, reports DHNS.

The team, guided by head coach Mahendra Mani, will begin their campaign against West Bengal on October 27.

Squad: Shayaan Armaan, Rengbek Sekho E Santhosh, Andrew Charlie Malkachen, Arth Chandramoorthy C, C Ruan Ganapathi, Manggoulen Tuboi, Ved Krishna M, Amom Messi Meetei, Aden Elwyn D'Silva, Gurumayum Prohitkumar Sharma, Jordan Paul Mobin, Eklavya Anand Goenka, Kanav Kutty DB, Basava Gouda, Ethan Zacharia Titus, M Tharun Nongmaithem, Kaiku Meetei, Shaurya Veer Verma, Asif Khan MS. **Head Coach:** Mahendra Mani; **Asst Coach:** Anwar Hussain; **Manager:** Harsha HH; **Physio:** Abdul Jaleel

Postal cruise to victory

▸ Shakti scored a hat-trick as Postal beat DYES, Bellary 12-1 on the tenth day of the 9th Hockey Karnataka League Championship on Thursday, reports DHNS.

Results: Postal: 12 (Vinayak Bijwad 5th, Akarsh Biddappa 8th, Palaniswamy 10th, Rajant 17th, 26th, Shakti 23rd, 36th, 47th, Basavaraj S Hongal 28th, Durai Pandi 29th, 58th, Ramesh HT 43rd) bt DYES, Bellary: 1 (Adarsh 34th); DYES 'B': 4 (Pranam Gowda 14th, 52nd, 57th, Mokshith Salyan BU 33rd) bt Canara Bank: 0.

WFI suspends Sanjeev

▸ The Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) has suspended wrestler Sanjeev after discrepancies were found in his domicile and identity documents, according to a notice issued by the federation on Thursday, reports PTI from New Delhi.

Masters 1000 event in Saudi

▸ The ATP announced Thursday the creation of a new Masters 1000 event which will take place annually in Saudi Arabia from as early as 2028, reports AFP from Paris.

India bag twin kabaddi gold at AYG

RIFFA (BAHRAIN), PTI: India capped off a memorable day at the Asian Youth Games with twin gold medals in kabaddi, emerging champions in both the boys' and girls' events to surge to fifth place in the overall standings here on Wednesday.

The dominant show on the mat lifted India's tally to two gold, three silver and five bronze medals (2-3-5), marking their best day yet at the continental event that will conclude on October 27.

China continued to lead the table with six gold, 10 silver and one bronze (6-10-1), followed by Thailand (6-2-2), Uzbekistan (6-1-2) and Iran (3-4-6) who incidentally lost both the boys' and girls' finals to India in kabaddi.

At the Isa Sports City, the Indian kabaddi teams produced contrasting wins in their respective finals.

The girls' team was ruthless, crushing Iran 75-21 to clinch the gold medal.

India led 33-12 at half-time and added 42 points in the second half while restricting their opponents to nine.

The women's team had qualified for the final with an all-win record in the group stage, having beaten Bangladesh (46-18), Thailand (70-23), Sri Lanka (73-10) and Iran (59-26).

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

Women's WC: Sri Lanka vs Pakistan **(3 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar.**

BADMINTON

French Open Super 750: Quarterfinals **(1:30 pm). LIVE** on **Star Sports Network, JioHotstar.**

CRICKET WOMEN'S ODI WORLD CUP

Openers guide India into semifinals

Smriti, Pratika smash tons as hosts beat NZ by 53 runs

NAVI MUMBAI, PTI

Smriti Mandhana (105) and Pratika Rawal (122) struck regal hundreds as a reinvigorated India outclassed New Zealand by a sumptuous 53-run margin to power-walk into the Women's World Cup semifinals here on Thursday.

India sealed their last-four spot on the basis of number of wins, that takes precedence over the Net Run Rate (NRR), in case two or more teams end up with equal points.

India, having secured three victories, will finish the league stage above New Zealand and Sri Lanka, who can have a maximum of two wins even if they go on to register victories in their final league stage fixtures. This irrespective of India's result against Bangladesh in their final group game.

Under pressure after losing three successive games, India regained its batting mojo at the perfect juncture to join reigning champions Australia, England and South Africa in the last four.

Centurions Mandhana and Rawal received splendid support from Jemimah Rodrigues' brisk 76 not out, as the hosts piled up 340 for three in 49 overs during a rain-affected contest.

New Zealand was asked to chase 325 in 44 overs under the DLS method, but they could only make 271 for eight. Brooke Halliday top-scored for them with 81 (84 balls, 9x4s, 1x6s).

Chasing the mammoth target, New Zealand needed their off-colour opening pair of Suzie Bates (1) and Georgia Plimmer (30) to come good but another forgettable outing for the former gave India an early breakthrough.

Kranti Goud's delivery skidded off the surface and caught Bates by surprise. Her almighty swing lobbed it towards Rawal and she made a simple grab at covers.

Plimmer and Amelia Kerr (45) put on 50 runs for the second wicket.

Renuka Singh (2/25) returned for the second spell and did not take long in putting New Zealand in disarray.

After having Plimmer drag one onto her wickets, she produced her trademark in-swinger which beat an in-form Sophie Devine's (6) defence to crash into middle and leg stumps, reducing the visitors to 59 for three.

Halliday fought hard as she forged vital stands with Amelia Kerr (45), Maddy Green (18) and Isabella Gaze (65 not out, 51 balls, 10x4s), but the asking rate kept moving beyond New Zealand's reach.

Earlier, imperious hundreds by Mandhana and Rawal along with Rodrigues' rapid knock fired India to a daunting total.

India's progression was affected by a rain break which caused a 90 minutes delay, and the contest was truncated to 49 overs per side.

But this time India set aside their iffy batting form, and cashed in on a benign track to register the highest score of the tournament.

India's Smriti Mandhana (left) and Pratika Rawal celebrate after scoring their respective centuries against New Zealand in Navi Mumbai on Thursday. PTI/ AFP

Rawal made it count with her first World Cup hundred, which was made in a conventional manner, while forging two big partnerships -- a record 212 runs with Mandhana for the first wicket and 76 runs with Rodrigues for the second.

Rodrigues, who was dropped from the last match as India favoured a sixth bowler, unleashed a flurry of fours to make the fastest fifty of this World Cup from 39 balls, eventually finishing with a 55-ball 76 with 11 fours.

Brief scores: India: 340/3 in 49 overs (Smriti Mandhana 109, Pratika Rawal 122, Jemimah Rodrigues 76) bt New Zealand: 271/8 in 44 overs (Georgia Plimmer 30, Amelia Kerr 45, Brooke Halliday 81, Isabella Gaze 65 n.o.; Renuka Thakur 2-25, Kranti Gaud 2-28). **Result:** India won by 53 runs (DLS Method). **PoM:** Smriti Mandhana. **Next India match:** Vs Bangladesh (Oct 26, Navi Mumbai).

Team	Played	Won	Lost	N/R	NRR	Points
Australia (Q)	6	**5**	0	1	**+1.704**	11
S Africa (Q)	6	**5**	1	0	**+0.276**	10
England (Q)	6	**4**	1	1	**+1.024**	9
India (Q)	**6**	**3**	**3**	**0**	**+0.628**	**6**
New Zealand	6	**1**	3	2	**-0.490**	4
Sri Lanka	6	**1**	3	2	**-1.035**	4
Bangladesh	6	**1**	5	0	**-0.578**	2
Pakistan	6	**0**	4	2	**-2.651**	2

India fumble in Adelaide too

Rohit hits form with 73 but Kohli out for 2nd successive duck in 2-wicket defeat

ADELAIDE, PTI

Rohit Sharma's defiant 73 went in vain as India surrendered the three-match ODI series against Australia after losing the second game by two wickets here on Thursday, a setback that will reignite the debate on proven match-winner Kuldeep Yadav's omission from the playing XI.

Under pressure, Rohit mixed grit with grace in a 97-ball knock on a spicy track that formed the cornerstone of India's total of 264 for 9 which was at least 25 short of what should have been a par-score.

While Rohit got much-needed breathing space, Kohli continued to be under pressure and left the ground raising his fist for the Adelaide spectators who probably saw the last of him. It is not the first time that Kohli scored consecutive ducks but it seems that the intensity that added to his legend has diminished considerably.

In reply, Australia struggled against Indian spinners but with Nitish Reddy being shoe-horned as a multi-skilled player instead of a genuine match-winner in Kuldeep, the visitors paid the price in a close situation.

It was another no-show by Virat Kohli with the bat as he was sent back by Xavier Bartlett for a duck during India's loss against Australia in Adelaide on Thursday. AP

Kuldeep missed

However, the absence of Kuldeep was felt more than ever when the Australian batters struggled against the two finger spinners. Axar Patel (1/52 in 10 overs) just slowed the pace and shortened the length as Matt Renshaw (30) gave the charge to be bowled.

At the other end, Washington Sundar (2/37) had an impatient Alex Carey (9) trying to sweep and getting bowled in the process. However, once the burly Mitchell Owen came into the scene, he smashed the daylights out of Harshit Rana (2/59 in 8 overs) to tilt the game decisively in favour of Australia.

Earlier, the Indian innings was about Rohit's determination and he had to survive a lot of anxious moments.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Rohit c Hazlewood b Starc	73
Gill c Marsh b Bartlett	9
Kohli lbw b Bartlett	0
Shreyas b Zampa	61
Axar c Starc b Zampa	44
Rahul b Zampa	11
Washington c H'wood b Bartlett	12
Nitish st Carey b Zampa	8
Harshit (not out)	24
Arshdeep b Starc	13
Siraj (not out)	0
Extras (B-2, LB-2, W-5)	9
TOTAL (for 9 wkts, 50 overs)	**264**

Fall of wickets: 1-17, 2-17, 3-135, 4-160, 5-174, 6-213, 7-223, 8-226, 9-263. **Bowling:** Starc 10-0-62-2, Hazlewood 10-2-29-0, Bartlett 10-1-39-3, Owen 2-0-20-0, Zampa 10-0-60-4, Connolly 3-0-11-0, Short 3-0-23-0, Head 2-0-16-0.

AUSTRALIA

Marsh c Rahul b Arshdeep	11
Head c Kohli b Rana	28
Short c Siraj b Rana	74
Renshaw b Axar	30
Carey b Sundar	9
Connolly (not out)	61
Owen c Arshdeep b Sundar	36
Bartlett c Gill b Arshdeep	3
Starc c Axar b Siraj	4
Zampa (not out)	0
Extras (LB-3, W-6)	9
TOTAL (for 8 wkts, 46.2 overs)	**265**

Fall of wickets: 1-30, 2-54, 3-109, 4-132, 5-187, 6-246, 7-255, 8-260. **Bowling:** Siraj 10-0-49-1, Arshdeep 8.2-0-41-2, Rana 8-0-59-2, Sundar 7-0-37-2, Reddy 3-0-24-0, Axar 10-0-52-1.

Result: Aus won by 2 wkts. **Series:** Aus lead 3-match series 2-0. **PoM:** Cooper Connolly. **3rd ODI:** Oct 25 (Sydney).

Switching back to upright stance helping Iyer

ADELAIDE, PTI: India batter Shreyas Iyer on Thursday said that returning to an upright batting stance has helped him regain confidence and consistency, allowing him to adapt better to varied conditions at home and overseas.

Speaking after India's two-wicket loss to Australia in the second ODI, Iyer said he had been working on his technique over the past year and decided to revert to the more upright stance that he used in his formative years.

"The technique I've got lately is not something that I've changed suddenly. Since last year, I wanted to have an upright stance, especially on wickets where the bounce is a little more than expected," Iyer, who made 61 off 77 balls, said at the post-match press conference.

"I worked with my coach on it, and it has been suiting me quite well. I grew up playing with that kind of stance, so I just thought of going back to my old method and seeing how it works out," he added.

Iyer said being able to tweak his stance according to the conditions has become an important part of his game.

"Even in Mumbai, when we play on red-soil wickets with extra bounce, an upright stance helps. You have to keep chopping and changing because every surface is different. I've changed my stance several times now, and I feel I can adapt anywhere at the moment," he said.

Shreyas Iyer

Iyer, who was involved in a crucial 118-run partnership with Rohit Sharma, said their focus was on building momentum on a challenging surface against a disciplined Australian attack.

"Hazlewood was bowling brilliantly. The ball was seaming in and out, and it wasn't an easy wicket to bat on at the start. We wanted to have an attacking approach but also rotate strike as much as possible," Iyer said.

Eng clinch series over NZ after Eden Park washout

AUCKLAND, AFP: The third T20 between New Zealand and England was rained off on Thursday with only 22 balls bowled in Auckland.

It meant England won the three-match series 1-0, with the first match in Christchurch also called off due to rain.

England had won the toss in Auckland and elected to field, but rain arrived in the first over.

New Zealand were 8/0 when the umpires called for covers to be placed on the Eden Park pitch after only three balls.

The teams returned about 90 minutes later, but only 19 more balls were bowled before the rain returned.

Twice covers were removed from the field, only for rain to return as the players prepared to run onto the field.

New Zealand Cricket had never started their home season this early, hosting T20 matches against Australia in October before the England series.

Traditionally the season would start closer to December.

Brief scores: New Zealand: 38/1 in 3.4 overs vs England. **Result:** Match abandoned due to rain.

Series: England won the 3-match series 1-0. **PoS:** Harry Brook.

Harmer blow crushes Pakistan

Simon Harmer

RAWALPINDI, AFP

South Africa beat Pakistan by eight wickets in the second Test in Rawalpindi on Thursday to draw the series 1-1 with Simon Harmer taking a maiden five-wicket haul.

The 36-year-old off-spinner finished with 6-50, taking his 1,000th first-class wicket in the process, on a deteriorating Rawalpindi stadium pitch.

South Africa eased to the 68-run target for the loss of captain Aiden Markram (42) and Tristan Stubbs (0), both to spinner Noman Ali, who finished with 2-40.

Ryan Rickelton, who scored 25 not out, hit Sajid Khan for a six to seal an emphatic win minutes before the lunch break for the World Test Championship holders.

Markram was delighted by his side's display after losing the first Test by 93 runs.

"It was a great response after Lahore," said Markram, standing in for regular skipper Temba Bavuma, who missed the tour with a calf injury.

Like Lahore -- where spinners took 34 of the 40 wickets to fall -- it was a battle of the slow bowlers.

Pakistan made 333 in their first innings before the South African tail wagged to help them pile up 404 for a crucial 71-run lead.

Thursday's morning session saw Pakistan's batters fold, adding just 44 runs after resuming the fourth day on 94-4.

Harmer torpedoed Pakistan's hopes of saving the Test when he trapped Babar Azam leg-before with the fifth ball of the day after the batsman had reached his 30th Test half-century.

Brief scores: Pakistan: 333 & (O/n: 94/4) 138 all out in 49.3 overs (Babar Azam 50, Salman Agha 28; Simon Harmer 6-50, Keshav Maharaj 2-34) lt to South Africa: 404 & 73/2 in 12.3 overs (Ryan Rickelton 25, Aiden Markram 42; Noman Ali 2-40) by 8 wkts.

Series: South Africa level 2-match series 1-1. **PoM:** Keshav Maharaj. **PoS:** Senuran Muthusamy.

Ruth Chepngetich

Chepngetich gets three-year doping ban

PARIS, AFP: Kenya's marathon world record holder, Ruth Chepngetich has been banned for three years for doping, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) announced on Thursday.

The 31-year-old, a former world marathon champion and a three-time winner of the Chicago Marathon, tested positive for the banned diuretic hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ) in March. She had been provisionally banned from July.

AIU chair David Howman said that the case against Chepngetich underlined that "nobody is above the rules".

The Kenyan "accepted the charges and sanction", the AIU said.

Bengaluru Bulls seal top-4 spot

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Bulls were at their dominant best as they crushed the Gujarat Giants with a massive 54-26 victory at the Thyagaraj Indoor Stadium in Delhi on Thursday.

With this comprehensive win, the Bulls not only secured two crucial points but also confirmed their place in the top four of the standings

The Bulls outclassed their opponents in every department—from raiding to defence—and never allowed the Giants to settle into the contest.

Unnati loses at French Open

CESSON-SEVIGNE (FRANCE), PTI: Unnati Hooda's run at the French Open Super 750 came to an end when she was overpowered by world number two Wang Zhiyi in the pre-quarterfinals of the women's singles, here on Thursday.

Hooda lost 14-21, 11-21 in a 39-minute straight-game defeat, struggling to challenge the second seed throughout the contest.

This marked the 18-year-old's second consecutive loss to Wang, having previously met at the Singapore Open, where Hooda had taken a game before losing.

In mixed doubles, the Indian pair of Rohan Kapoor and Ruthvika Shivani Gadde lost 23-21, 8-21, 17-21 to Thom Gicquel and Delphine Delrue of France.

Bangla thump Windies to win ODI series

MIRPUR (BANGLADESH), AP: The Bangladesh spinners were responsible for all 10 wickets as their team thrashed West Indies by 179 runs in the third and final ODI to take the series 2-1 on Thursday.

The dominant victory, its second largest overall and biggest ever against the Caribbean side, helped Bangladesh claim its first ODI series triumph since March 2024. In between, it has lost four such encounters.

Leg-spinner Rishad Hossain capped a successful spell with 3-54, taking his wicket-tally to 12, the highest by a Bangladesh spinner in an ODI series. West Indies was bowled out for 117 in 30.1 overs.

Brief scores: Bangladesh: 296/8 in 50 overs (Saif Hassan 80, Soumya Sarkar 91, Towhid Hridoy 28, Najmul Shanto 44; Akeal Hosein 4-41, Alick Athanaze 2-37) bt West Indies: 117 all out in 30-1 overs (Akeal Hosein 27; Nasum Ahmed 3-11, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 2-35, Tanvir Islam 2-16, Rishad Hossain 3-54). **Result:** Bangla won by 179 runs. **PoM:** Soumya Sarkar. **3-match series:** Bangladesh won 2-1. **PoS:** Rishad Hossain.

Printed and published by B A Ravi on behalf of The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, at The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd, Plot nos. 7-12, Kumbalgodu Industrial Area, Bengaluru - 560 074. Executive Editor: K V Subramanya (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act). Editorial Office: 75, M.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. E-mail: editor@deccanherald.co.in. Phone: 080-45557333, Editorial: 080-45557279/080-45557280, Circ: 080-45557204, Advt: 080-45557163/080-45557164. Also printed at Hubballi-Dharwad, Mangaluru, Kalaburagi, Davangere, Mysuru and Hosapete. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without permission is prohibited. RNI No 3608/57. Registered, Regn. No: KRNA/BGE/1027/2023-2025, posted at Bangalore PSO, Mysore Road, Bengaluru - 560 026. Website: www.printersmysore.com